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Bhadra 4, 1898 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Seventeenth Session)

सत्यमेव जयते

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 26, 1976/Bhadra 4, 1898 (Saka).

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*].

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Mining of Bauxite

*223. SHRI R K SINHA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) the places where bauxite deposits of high grade have been found; and

(b) whether Government propose to keep mining of this bauxite deposit in the public sector?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): a) The deposits of high grade and low grade bauxite are usually associated together. However, substantial high grade deposits occur in Orissa and Andhra Pradesh on the East Coast Ranges and there are some high grade deposits also in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka.

(b) To the extent such bauxite deposits are required to feed alumina/aluminium plants in the public sector, mining of such deposits would also be in the public sector.

SHRI R. K SINHA: The Bharat Aluminium Company, the only public sector aluminium company in the country, I understand, has been directed by the Minister, Shri Chandrajit Yadav, to go into detail and extensively into the functioning of this only public sector organization in this sensitive sector of the industry and into the problems of exploitation, exports and construction of aluminium plants.

I would like to know what progress has been achieved in this regard and what are the possibilities of exports of this material and its fullest utilisation inside the country.

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV): The hon. Member will be glad to know that this Bharat Aluminium Company has started functioning very well in the very first year of its production. It has reached 98 per cent of its utilisation capacity and the metal it has produced, the EC grade metal, from the point of purity is one of the best. It has also exported some of this EC grade metal to countries like Japan where it has found wide acceptance as conforming to international standards.

We are also exporting alumina to the Soviet Union. The only difficulty to-day is that the power that we require for this factory is not available and it is causing delay in regard to further production. Only one pot line is producing and other pot lines are still to be commissioned. As soon as we get the power, that will be done. We are in touch with the Madhya Pradesh Government and every possible effort is being made by the Madhya Pradesh Government also to see that they will be able to supply power to us at the earliest.

I would also like to assure the hon. Member that we are also taking care that bauxite is taken as a priority mineral and the GSI and MEEC have been instructed to go in for a crash programme so that we may explore the availability of bauxite and see to its possibility because aluminium is one metal in which there is a good possibility for exports as also for domestic use.

SHRI R. K. SINHA: I am happy to hear what the hon. Minister has said.

I also understand that the GSI and the Metal Exports and Exploration Corporation are jointly carrying on a detailed survey, analysis of samples, etc. and the considerable success they have achieved raises the possibility that there will be sufficient growth and development of this industry.

I would like to know whether it will be reserved for exploitation in the public sector only.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: Really speaking, a sea change in our bauxite prospects has taken place, after we have located a very large quantity of bauxite of very high grade in east coast covering Orissa and Andhra Pradesh. The present indication is that we may be able to get 1,000 M. T of bauxite in this range. It is a long range of 300 K.M. The depth of bauxite mineral is also quite appreciable. The mineral content is also upto the world standard, 45 per cent to 48 per cent. This will be one of the best grades available in the world. We are looking forward that this will be a big deposit and that is why we are taking up a crash programme So far as his other question is concerned, so far, the aluminium production has been in the private sector. It is only now that BALCO has come into existence. Whatever may be the undertaking the mining will be reserved for the public sector. But at this stage we cannot say what will be the future pattern.

DR. RANEN SEN: A few weeks back there was a report in the newspapers that the expected bauxite deposit around BALCO was exaggerated in the earlier stage, and that that much of bauxite would not be available in that area. This is causing misgivings to people working in BALCO. So I want to know how far this newspaper report is correct.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: In the earlier stages when mining started GSI mentioned in its report that there is erratic availability in that area. They also advised that mechanised mining should not take place because of the erratic nature of the region. But when mining started we found that the estimate given by GSI was not correct and almost 50 per cent bauxite deposits are found there. Therefore we have asked BALCO to apply to Orissa Government to get some more leases There it a possibility of getting this in Banda district of U.P which is also near BALCO. We are examining whether from that area they can supply bauxite. So, all these things are being examined.

SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY: So far as bauxite deposit in the country is concerned the percentage of alumina varies from 7 to 40 per cent. Throughout the world there are very few high deposits. Governments are using lower percentage of deposits with higher percentage deposits. May I know whether in public sector undertakings these lower grade and higher grade bauxite would be mixed and used in aluminium production? If not, why not?

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: Sir, this is a correct approach that we are taking. Taking the low-grade and the high-grade alumina we should find out the metal-content after beneficiation.

Really speaking, in Sarguja area in Madhya Pradesh, we have found a huge quantity of bauxite but that is of low-grade bauxite. In this respect, we are seeking the help of some of those countries which have the techno-

logy of upgrading the low-grade bauxite to high-grade bauxite. We want both the lowgrade and highgrade bauxites available to be mixed and the full advantage should be taken.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: Sir, aluminium industry comes under the schedule of the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956. That is why the private sector was allowed to set up industries. That is how Indalco etc. came up. Now that the BALCO has come into existence, may I know, whether the Government will think of not allowing the private sector any further to set up new units or to expand their existing units. May I know what is the policy of the Government in this regard?

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: I think it will not be advisable at this stage to do that when the private sectors are already in existence and are producing this. There are certain guidelines issued by Government and they have to function according to them Therefore, when we need this metal, it will not be correct to say at this stage that we will not allow their expansion and also to set up new units. As I have said earlier, now that BALCO has come into existence in the public sector in this area, we will take care of that.

Micro-Wave Network

*224. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country will be covered by micro-wave communications network soon; and

(b) if so, whether the country is producing indigenously equipment for the micro-wave network?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) and (b). It has been planned to provide broad band telecommunication media such as Micro-wave Redio-relay system and/or coaxial cable system over the major trunk routes in the country.

Some types of micro-wave radio-relay systems are already in production in the Indian Telephone Industries at Bangalore. More types are being developed. Adequate capacity to meet the country's requirements is expected to be established soon.

SHRI D. D. DESAI. Sir, the communication system we have, particularly, we are referring to the telephones, requires much to be desired. Will the hon. Minister tell me, in that direction, whether it will be the Government's endeavour to see that the micro-wave stations, the repeater antennas, are set up in as many localities as possible and would he not consider that the present communication does not compare well even to the radio communication that we have or which we receive and will he not do something in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA): So far as micro-wave system is concerned, we are trying to develop that. Last year, the micro-wave kilometreage was doubled—we have provided 8,600 k.m. and we are going to provide upto 20,000 K.M. The hon. Member, when he talked about the mechanisation, seems to be a little confused between long distance transmission and local switching. In local switching, mechanisation and electronics are being considered. Micro-wave is used for long distance transmission purposes. There again, micro-wave is not the only answer because in micro-wave, the capacity is limited. The countries are going with the micro-wave and co-axial cable at the same time. The possibilities in co-axial cable have gone up recently very much. We can carry many more channels and more safely through it. India like other countries in the world, has to have both mirco-wave and co-axial Similarly, the terrain will determine whether the micro-wave will be more economical or co-axial will be cheaper. Naturally, where there are hills, micro-

wave becomes easier and cheaper. When we take a large number of channels in co-axial cables, they are dropped in the way. In that way they are more economical. So we have decided that we will try to develop both of them. We are going about long distance transmission in a big way because the return is good. The STD which we are able to bring in is also useful. We are using both micro-wave and co-axial, for long distance transmission also. We have developed the capacity so far as the micro-wave is concerned. We are also planning and we are almost ready with the solid state micro-wave.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: When I mentioned 'mechanical device'. I meant the cross bar system which we are presently using. Will he phase it out and replace it by electronic exchanges or not? We have available in the country both the Electronics Corporation and the Electronics Department. Their assistance could be obtained in sensing, selecting and switching. When I mentioned about repeater antennae, this took into account the fact that micro-wave travels in the same way as light, that is in a straight line, and therefore, repeater antennae were considered necessary. I am only requesting the hon. Minister whether he would get rid of the present system and replace it by electronic exchanges coupled with micro-wave.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is too long and the answer will be even longer. You will have to explain your question, what you meant, what you did not mean. What is your question? You are explaining your earlier question, what you meant.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: I am saying this to make it easier for him to answer. The question is whether the present combination of mechanical and electrical devices would be replaced by electronic exchanges coupled with micro-wave.

MR. SPEAKER: I think you are giving information.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: What steps is he taking to eliminate the cross bar system?

MR. SPEAKER: There is no question in it. It is more an explanation. Shri Tiwary.

SHRI D. N. TIWARY: After the introduction of the micro-wave system, there are still complaints that at certain places the telephones are not working properly. May I know what improvements have been brought about on the old system after the introduction of this system, and if there are breakdowns or improper working, what steps are being taken to have it rectified?

DR SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA: As I pointed out in the beginning, there seems to be confusion between two different processes. There is local switching and there is long distance transmission. These are two different processes altogether. Micro-wave is used for long distance transmission. So far as long distance transmission is concerned, micro-wave is functioning fine. We have to increase the number of channels. For micro-wave, we have repeater stations with tower and antennae for repeating micro-wave signals from one to another. On wide band micro-wave systems, we provide 1800 telephone channels to each radio bearer channel. We add more radio channels on any route depending on the circuit requirements.

As regards the other trouble that you are talking about, regarding local switching, if the hon. Speaker permits, I can explain.

MR. SPEAKER: No more.

श्री राम सहाय पांडे : मैं भी स्विचिंग के बारे में ही पूछना चाहता हूं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप माइक्रो-वेव के बारे में पूछिये, स्विचिंग, क्रासबार, को-एक्सियल के बारे में नहीं।

श्री राम सहाय पांडे : लेकिन इसका इस क्वेश्चन से सम्बन्ध है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह सवाल माइक्रो-वेव के नेट-वर्क का है, स्विचिंग का नहीं है।

श्री राम सहाय पांडे : श्री शंकर दयाल शर्मा जब से इस विभाग के मंत्री बने हैं, टेलीफोन के काम में बड़ी उन्नति हुई है, माइक्रो-वेव और न जाने क्या क्या चीजें उन्होंने शुरू कर दी हैं। लेकिन डाक्टर साहब के लिये कुछ मुसीबतें भी पैदा हो गई हैं, हमारे टेलीफ़ोन्ज के बिल बहुत बढ़ गये हैं...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप बिल की बात को छोड़िये, माइक्रो-वेव के बारे में पूछिये।

श्री राम सहाय पांडे : माइक्रो-वेव के माध्यम से टेलीफोन का जो प्रावधान किया जा रहा है—उसका नेट-वर्क देहातों में क्या है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : देहातों के बारे में बता दें अगर आपका कोई माइक्रो-वेव नेटवर्क है।

डा० शंकर दयाल शर्मा : माइक्रो-वेव नेटवर्क तो वहां यूजफुल रहता है जहां बहुत चैनल्ज की जरूरत होती है। यू एच एंफ, अल्ट्रा हाई फ्रिक्वेंसी साठ चैनल्ज की जहां जरूरत होगी वहा तक चला जाएगा। देहातों में तब जाएगा जब वहां इनकी आवश्यकता होगी।

Developing a New Cholera Vaccine at Cholera Research Centre, Calcutta

*225. SHRI P. GANGADEB: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new cholera vaccine has been developed at the Cholra Research Centre, Calcutat;

(b) if so, whether the vaccine was tested on people in Calcutta; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The vaccine has offered 90-100 per cent protection to children in the age group 1—4 years. It has given 62—77 per cent protection to all age groups above 1 year.

SHRI P. GANGADEB: In view of the fact that the previous cholera vaccine used to give partial immunity for only six months, we request the hon. Minister to clear our doubts whether the new vaccine has got any advantage over the previous one in giving immunity of a longer duration or giving absolute immunity from this dreaded disease? What is the latest research in regard to this matter?

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: It is definitely an improvement on the last one. So far as protection is concerned, in the age group 1—4 years it gives 100 per cent protection and in other groups it gives protection upto 77 per cent. In that respect it is definitely an improvement upon the previous one. Secondly, so far as the duration is concerned, by its nature it is presumed to be giving protection for a certain period: the one now under consideration has a period of 380 days and on that account also it is an improvement on the last one.

SHRI P. GANGADEB: What are the other researches that are going on to give fuller protection to the persons vaccinated and also for producing some type of oral vaccine so that people can accept it rather easily.

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: I think a very useful drug has been manufactured in the country, that is known as corosol and it has brought about a revolution in this respect. It can be taken orally. But health education and personal hygiene is the best method of protecting people.

DR. KAILAS: May I know from the hon. Minister whether this vaccine is

available to areas which are endemic, it is known that storage facilities in those areas are negligible and that there are no adequate refrigeration facilities which are needed to keep its potentiality and the number of vaccinators are also less than needed. May I know further whether there is any definite distribution system or network so that this improved type of vaccine can be used effectively?

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: There is some improvement in this matter. We have 54 districts which are endemic and we could give coverage only for 28 districts; we are extending this coverage to other areas.

Provident Fund Investments

*226. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have issued new directive to the employers on the provident fund investments; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) and (b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House

Statement

The following pattern of investment brought into force by the Central Government with effect from 1st July, 1975 *vide* Notification S.O. No 286(E), dated the 30th June 1975, copy of which is laid on the Table of the House [*Placed in Library. See* No LT-11236/76] continues to remain in force till the 31st August, 1976 —

(i) Government securities as defined in Clause (2) of Section 2 of the Public Debt Act, 1944 (18 of 1944) created and issued by the Central Government.	Not less than 25%
(ii) Government securities as defined in Clause (2) of Section 2 of the Public Debt Act, 1944 (18 of 1944) created and issued by any State Government.	Not less than 25%
(iii) Any other negotiable securities or bonds, the principal whereof and interest whereon is fully and unconditionally guaranteed by the Central Government or any State Government.	Not less than 25%
(iv) 7-year National Savings Certificates (Second Issue and Third Issue) or Post Office Time Deposits.	Not exceeding 30%
(v) Special Deposit Scheme introduced by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Deptt. of Economic Affairs) No. F. 16(1)-PD/75, dated 30-6-1975.	Not exceeding 20%

SHRI K. MALLANNA: Is it a fact that some of the employers are not complying with the scheme and if so what is the action taken by the Government? What is the amount expected for investment and what has actually been received?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: The hon. Member knows that the moneys are to be invested as per directives of the Central Government and therefore there is no let up; they could not deviate from the established practice. In case they fail to do so action is taken against them. We have exemptions in some cases for this purpopse. Actually I have got no figures at present regarding the amount received by the unexempted categories. If he wants, I can supply it

SHRI K. MALLANNA: Out of the accumulated provident fund, has the Government thought of any benefit schemes like loans housing scheme, educational and health schemes, etc.?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: The employees can take loans. Whenever there is need, they can take it.

SHRI K. SURYANARYANA: May I know whether any employer who has not deposited the provident fund money has been prosecuted for violating this rule? What action has the government taken against such persons?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: Whenever the employers do not deposit the amount as required, we take appropriate action. The number of prosecutions launched was 55,590 as on 30th June 75 and 64,745 as on 30th June 76. The number of convictions secured was 35,083 as on 30th June 75 and 37, 116 as on 30th June 76. The number of cases launched under section 406/409 IPC was 436 as on 30th June, 75 and 657 as on 30th June 76. The number of cases launched for revenue recovery under section 8....

MR. SPEAKER: Is it a long statement?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: There are only a few more figures.

MR. SPEAKER: If it is a long statement, you can lay it on the Table. Next question.

Colombo Summit Deliberations on American Nuclear base at Diego Garcia

*227. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:
SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the American nuclear base at Diego Garcia camp up as a major issue in the Non-aligned Summit at Colombo in August, 1976, and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) and (b). The Diego Garcia base came in for strong criticism during the discussions on the item on the "Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace" at the recently concluded 5th Non-aligned Summit Conference in Colombo. The Conference, *inter-alia*, adopted a formulation condemning "the establishment, maintenance and expansion of foreign and imperialist military bases and installations, such as in Diego Garcia, by the great powers in the pursuit of their strategic interests as well as the continuing escalation of great Power military rivalry and tension in the Indian Ocean as they constitute a direct threat to the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and peaceful development of States of the region."

A similar paragraph also figured in the Resolution adopted by the Conference on the subject.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: It is really good news that Diego Garcia has been specifically mentioned and it has come up not only for criticism but for condemnation also. In the formulation quoted by the hon minister it is said:

> "the establishment, maintenance and expansion of foreign and imperialist military bases and installations, such as in Diego Garcia...."

It implies that there are other bases and installations by foreign imperialist powers. In the formulation it is said that "it is in pursuit of the Great power rivalry". So far as the Soviet Union is concerned, it has categorically stated, not once but several times, that it is interested in preserving the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. So, there is no question of rivalry, so far as the Soviet Union is concerned It is very well known that America is building the base in Diego Garcia. So, will the Government tell us which are the other foreign imperial powers which are building bases and putting up installations in the Indian Ocean, apart from America?

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: If he really wants information on facts, in Djibouti France has got a base. I am mentioning this for the purpose of illustration. But the basic question is keeping the Indian Ocean a zone of peace by eliminating the foreign bases, imperialist bases, as you would call it....

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: What is this "imperial and foreign"? Could there be an imperial base, which is not foreign?

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: There cannot be, I can understand it But in a conference like this, to meet the other man's point of view, you have to accommodate certain phrases. Really speaking, there cannot be any non-imperial foreign bases. Foreign base is the basic thing. These bases are certainly imperialistic and we should certainly try to contain them. That is my intention. The great powers are many, not only one or two.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Which are the other great powers which are building up installations there.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister gave the information.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: The question is not who has got it. The question is what are the possibilities. We are trying to provide against potential possibilities.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: In view of the fact that Diego Garcia is so close to our country and also in view of the fact that so many countries have condemned this base, what further action do the Government propose to take to mobilise public opinion and to see that it is eliminated? Secondly, will the hon. Minister be able to give us information about the present stage of the base in Diego Garcia. Lastly, what has happened to the people who were there in that island?

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: So far as the first part of the questoin is concerned, we are participating in a meeting of the littoral countries to be convened by the *Ad Hoc* Committee. I think the Chairman of the *Ad Hoc* Committee had made a reference to all the participating countries, littoral countries, about their suggestions on the agenda, timing etc. of the Conferences. The recommendations and suggestions from the different countries have been received. If at all the Conference has to be of any practical use, we should secure the participation of the Great Powers in the Conference. Otherwise, it would be just talking at in a conference. So far, I do not think we have succeeded in getting any willingness on the part of the Great Powers to participate in it.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Which are the Great Powers which were approached and which have refused?

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: I think I will have to ask this question to the Chairman of the Conference I am giving you the information I have got.

So far as the present stage of the base is concerned, I think it has advanced quite a bit and it has become operative.

So far as the population of that area is concerned, I think it is well-known—in fact, we were also worried about this controversy—that there were some people and those people were evacuated to some other parts.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: The hon. Minister has not stated what steps the summit conference has taken to mobilise world opnion, and whether any streng official protest has been sent to the United States to remove the nuclear base from Diego Garcia.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: It is not a question of sending protests We have many times stated our views bilaterally also to the United States Government. In my discussions with the Secretary of State I have more than once emphasized this aspect of India's point of view. Of course, we have not received any positive response to that.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: In view of the fact that the non-aligned countries are strongly in favour of peace in the Indian Ocean and adopted a resolution unanimously condemning the nuclear base in Diego Garcia, may I know whether any specific direction was provided to the countries attending the conference to persuade other countries which were outside the non-alignment movement but were not hostile to non-alignment to mobilise opinion in the U.N., and whether any such countries outside the non-alignment movement were present as observers when this resolution was adopted by the conference?

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: Efforts will have to be made to keep the unity of the littoral States and see that they are not manipulated by others by introducing some extraneous elements in the discussions of the conference. That is one part that will have to be taken care of because attempts are made to introduce such elements as *inter se* rivalry or the naval positions of the States in the Indian Ocean itself. Then, as I said, the major emphasis will have to be to call this conference and secure the participation of the Powers concerned

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: When I referred to non-imperialist bases there was some laughter in the House, but I had a purpose in using that phrase, because we read from press reports of the Colombo Conference that some allegations were made there or attempted to be made by the delegation of Bangla Desh to the effect that in the Indian Ocean security and peace are also threatened by another great Power or big Power, namely India. This is what they were trying to put across, saying that they were a small country while India was a big one with large naval power.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: They never mentioned India.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: It was understood whom they were meaning. So, I would like to know the reaction among other countries regarding this question whether other people also really consider that India is a big Power in the Indian Ocean about which they should be careful and vigilant.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: As we did not make any reference to this statement in our statement, we can very well say that it was really speaking ignored by others as well as by us

DR V K. R VARADARAJA RAO: The hon. Minister has made it clear that in spite of all the protests and so on one great Power has established what is now termed an operational or operative base in the Indian Ocean, and the remedy now sought is to hold another conference trying to get the major Powers to attend it, but so far the major Powers have failed to respond. In case these effort continue to fail or the littoral States in the Indian Ocean are not in a position to resist the danger that arises from the foreign base, will they permit another Power to come into the Ocean in order to counter the first Power?

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: It depends upon the unity of littoral States concerned. This is the basic thing. It is not a question of now asking some other power not to come What about the power which is already there? This is the main thrust of the question. These problems and these conceptions have to be patiently worked out. There cannot be any quick answer for it in a short time.

Outbreak of Influenza in the country

*228 SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there had been outbreak of influenza in any part of the country in the recent months; and

(b) if so, the steps taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K M. ISHAQUE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI: In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the news-item published in the *Hindustan Times* dated 19th June, 1976. The headline is: "Flu epidemic in U.P feared". The news-item reads:

> "The Uttar Pradesh Health Directorate has advised citizens to be cautious against any outbreak of influenza epidemic and contact the nearest hospital as soon as symptoms are noticed."

In view of this, may I know what steps the Government propose to take or has taken in this regard?

SHRI A. K M ISHAQUE: We have come across this news-item. But there is no basis for that report Whenever an epidemic breaks out, there is the usual pattern of assistance rendered

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI This news-item is given by Samachar in the *Hindustan Times*

Secondly, the news-item also mentions:

> "The step has been taken in view of a warning given by the World Health Organisation that influenza may spread to wide areas of the world."

If that is so, may I know what steps are being taken to ensure sufficient stock of medicine for treatment of influenza in this country?

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: The WHO has a certain function of surveillance whenever there is an epidemic in certain parts of the world. We have developed our own system of surveillance. In our country, we have four different units who do this work. There is the Central Research Institute, Kasauli....

MR. SPEAKER: You need not read out all that.

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: We have our own surveillance pattern.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Encaffalitis is an acute type of influenza or not and what are the causes of this disease. Many people have died in West Bengal, specially in the district of Burdwan. May I know how many people have died of this disease?

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: At the moment, I do not have the information But that is under investigation

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA: Is the Government aware that a new vaccine has been invented in USA and they are trying to undertake mass vaccination to check influenza on a very large scale?

SHRI A. K M. ISHAQUE: They are doing their own job. But we are also producing a vaccine in our own country

MR. SPEAKER: He is not asking what you are producing in our country. He is asking whether you are aware of this new vaccine that has been developed in U.S.A.

SHRI A K M. ISHAQUE: They are making some investigations.

Participation of Pharmacists in Family Planning Programme

*229. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pharmacy Council of India have decided that 20,000 pharmacists would participate in the national family planning programme next year;

(b) whether Union Government would spend Rs. 4 lakhs to train pharmacists for this purpose; and

(c) whether these 20,000 pharmacists who will be recruited and trained will become permanently a part of the family planning programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (CHOWDHURY RAM SEWAK): (a) Yes, Sir, according to a Press statement issued by the council—

(b) A scheme is yet to be drawn up.

(c) No, Sir.

SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: What is the financial and other status of the Pharmacy Council of India in relation to Government? It is their intention to train 20,000 pharmacists.

CHOWDHURY RAM SEWAK: I do not know from where the figure of 20,000 pharmacists has come in. When a discussion took place with the Commissioner of Family Planning, certain proposals were made by them. A meeting was held in Bangalore In that meeting also, a resolution was passed If you permit me, I will reproduce that....

MR. SPEAKER: Don't reproduce it. You can give a gist of it.

CHOWDHURY RAM SEWAK: If they are prepared to cooperate in the family planning programme, whatever finance is required will be given.

SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: In the context of the answer given to the second part of my question, I want to know, by when Government is expected to draw up the scheme and whether the scheme will cover the said 20,000 pharmacists or any particular number.

CHOWDHURY RAM SEWAK: I have just instructed the Department to draw up the scheme and we will expedite it and then put it up before the Family Planning Board to finalise it.

Land Acquired for Ratnagiri Aluminium Plant

*232. SHRI S. L. PEJE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether land measuring more than 500 acres have been acquired for the Aluminium Plant to be set up at Ratnagiri in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the total amount paid to the agriculturists from whom land was acquired; and

(c) whether some of the agriculturists have not been paid?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The land has been acquired by the Maharashtra Government through the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation Acquisition of land, and payment of amount to the farmer owners of land are matters falling within the jurisdiction of State Governments. The Maharashtra Government have informed that Rs. 26.30 lakhs have already been paid out and that only 52 claims are still pending.

SHRI S. L. PEJE: Will the Minister give us some idea regarding the

utilisation of the land for the purpose for which it has been acquired? Have Government made out any definite plan to implement the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV): The land has been acquired. The plan is to have an aluminium plant there. But because of lack of resources, progress has not been made.

SHRI DHAMANKAR: The hon. Minister has said just now that progress is not being made. I would like to know specifically whether the project has been dropped altogether.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: The project has not been dropped. It is very much under consideration But we have to see our resources position also. The land still belongs to the company.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: Of course, this is about the specific case of aluminium project at Ratnagiri. I find that the payment made is fairly adequate. Whenever such lands are acquired for industrial purposes from agriculturists, at least when the Government concerned have yet to make up their mind, will the rights of the cultivators to be in possession of, and cultivate, their lands, be honoured?

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: The difficulty which the hon. Member has pointed out does take place. In certain cases, lands have been acquired and because of lack of resources, lands have not been utilised for quite some time. In certain cases we have permitted the agriculturists, we have given them on lease so that the land may not be unutilised. For example, in his own State, the land which was acquired for the steel plant was permitted to be utilised by the agriculturists from time to time. When work starts, at that time it becomes very difficult.

Exchange of Goodwill Delegations between India and Pakistan

*233. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any discussion with the Pakistan authorities regarding exchange of unofficial goodwill delegations between the two countries; and

(b) if not, whether Government of India have any such proposal under consideration?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) and (b) The relations between India and Pakistan have only recently been normalised The possibility of further improvement of relations such as through goodwill delegations will be explored in due course.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: In case Government explores the possibility of sending goodwill missions, would they consider special claims for bachelors being included in the goodwill missions?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Would the Ministry have any objection in case the hon. Speaker of the Lok Sabha takes the initiative at any time to arrange for exchange of Parliamentary delegations between the two countries?

SHRI BIPINPAL DAS: We have to see the developments. We have not yet reached that stage.

Salem Steel Plant

*234 SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU:
SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Special Committee set up by the Planning Commission to assess the financial viability of the Salem Steel Plant has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the amount earmarked for this project during the current year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) and (b). A Special group constituted by the Planning Commission to go into the commercial viability of the Salem Steel Project has recently submitted its report which is under consideration.

(c) A budget allocation of Rs. 3 crores has been made during the current financial year.

SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU: I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what are the recommendations of the Special Committee. Can the Government assure that the steel plant at Salem will be pushed through as originally envisaged?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV): At this stage it will be difficult for me to disclose the nature of the recommendations of the Special Group because it was a meeting held at a high level in which the Prime Minister also was kind enough to be present. The Finance Minister, the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission and myself were also present at that meeting when a decision was taken that a Special Group should be formed and they should give their report as early as possible. They have submitted their report and it is still under consideration. Therefore, it will not be possible to say

But I would like to say that the Salem Steel plant is a project which requires Rs. 516.88 crores and, therefore, a big problem of resources is there. The scheme is there and the Government is very keen to find resources for this project

SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU: In the second part of the answer, the Minister has said that a budget allocation of Rs. 3 crores was made. I want to know whether the amount will be transferred to the project account and the work stopped for want of funds will be resumed.

MR. SPEAKER: The work stopped for want of funds will be resumed—that is the question.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: The real question is that the Plant wants that instead of Rs. 3 crores they should have about Rs. 15 crores for the current year. But the major part of the amount will have to be advanced against machines and equipment. Once we make that commitment and make the advance, then unless and untill we get at least the financial resources for the first stage, it may not be adviseable to make advances against machines and equipment.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: May I know whether the planning and erection of the Salem Steel Plant is linked up with the other steel plants like Visakhapatnam and Vijayanagar?

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: No, Sir. It has nothing to do with the other plants.

SHRI K. GOPAL: I may recall the assurance given in this House by our late Shri Mohan Kumaramangalam that the cold rolling complex will be on the stream in February 1976. But it now seems that it will not see the light of the day at all. The Minister himself said that it is a Rs. 516 crores project and that he is allotting a sum of Rs. 3 crores for the project which is just sufficient for the staff payments idling there for no fault of theirs.

Will the Minister, therefore, tell us whether he is serious about the Salem project at all and whether he will allot more money this year so that the work can start in right earnest?

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: I am very clear that the hon. Member should have the satisfaction that this question has been taken up at the higest level *i. e.* at the level of the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister herself is keen and we are also keen, that we should see that resources are made available. Therefore, there should be no concern about it and there is no question of it at all.

Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme

*235. SHRI S. A MURUGANANTHAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced a deposit linked insurance scheme for workers covered by Employees' Provident Fund Scheme and the Coal Mines Provident Fund Scheme; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Bill giving all details has been already introduced in Lok Sabha and is Coming up for discussion

All India Consumer Price Index

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*236. SHRI B. S. BHAURA:
SHRI D. K. PANDA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Consumer Price Index published by Labour Bureau does not reflect the correct picture of the price fluctuation in the market as has been pointed out by the Central Committee and National Apex Body of the All India Bank Employees' Association;

(b) whether an immediate scrutiny in this regard has been demanded by the same Bank Employees' Association and

(c) if so, the facts and Government's response thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

Identical representations relating to alleged faulty Consumer Price Index figures have been received from the All India Bank Employees' Association, the Federation of Indian Bank Employees' Union and many Units of Bank Employees' Unions. The main allegations made out in these representations are—

(i) inaccurate recording of the prices of commodities,

(ii) incongruity of the movement of the Consumer Price Index *vis-a-vis* the wholesale Price Index, and

(iii) faulty compilation of Consumer Price Index Numbers.

2. The Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers are being compiled on uniform and scientific lines In so far as the Consumer Price Index numbers are based on the actual consumption pattern of the workers as ascertained through family budget enquiries, and measure the changes in the retail prices of the goods and services included in the consumption basket. These index numbers do reflect the reality of the expenditure pattern at a given time, and the prevailing trends in the retail prices of the goods and services included in the consumption basket. The position has been explained to the various Bank Employees' Associations and Unions which have sent representations.

श्री भक्त मिंह भौरा: स्टेटमेंट में यह दिया गया है कि बैंक एम्प्लाईज एसोसिएशन तथा दूसरे इण्डियन बैंक एम्प्लाईज यूनियन्स ने कुछ एलीगेशन्स लगाए हैं । क्या उन एलीगेशन्स की कोई एन्क्वायरी की है ? उसने जो इनएक्योरेट रेकार्डिंग आफ दी प्राइसेज आफ कमोडिटीज की शिकायत है उसके

बारे में क्या यह आपको पता है कि कलकत्ता और बम्बई में ऐसे केसेज पकड़े गए हैं जहां पर लो प्राइसेज लगा कर यह डेटा कलैक्ट किया जाता है ? क्या आपने इसकी कोई एन्क्वायरी की है ?

श्री बाल गोविन्द वर्मा : हमें बैंक एम्प्लाईज का मेमोरेंडम मिला था कि जो प्राइस इंडैक्स है उसमें गडबडिया है। मेमोरेंडम के आने के बाद हमने फिर उसकी छानबीन की। जहां तक प्राइसेज के घटने बढ़ने की बात है आप जानते हैं कि प्राइसेज बराबर गिर रही हैं। हमारे प्राइस कलेक्टर्स बराबर रोज बाजारों में जाते रहते हैं और डेटा कलेक्ट करते रहते हैं। जैसे ही हमें इनका मेमोरेंडम मिला हमने उनकी छानबीन की और उसके बाद वैकिंग डिपार्टमैंट से बातचीत करके उन को यह बता दिया गया कि जो बातें उन्होंने कही हैं उनमें कोई तथ्य नहीं है और शायद वे सन्तुष्ट भी मालूम होते हैं।

श्री भान सिंह भौरा आपने जो कन्जम्पशन मारकेट डिटरमिन की है उसमें कौन सी चीजें आती हैं और क्या आपको यह पता है कि जो प्राइसेज ये लगाते हैं, उसमें धोती की कीमत 6 रुपये और साड़ी की कीमत दस रुपये लगायी है, जो पचास साल पहले कपड़े की कीमत थी वह कीमत ये लगाते हैं ? क्या मन्त्री महोदय को पता है कि ऐसी चीजें हो रही हैं और इनके इसपेक्टर वगैरह ऐसा कर रहे हैं ?

श्री बाल गोविन्द वर्मा : आम तौर से हमारे प्राइस कलेक्टर्स उन स्थानों पर काम कर रहे हैं जिन पर कि हमने उनको चुना है। हमने पचास जो मार्केट्स हैं वहां वे दुकानें चुनी हैं जहां पर ये वर्कर जाकर अपना सामान खरीदते हैं और वहां पर जैसे कि आप बता रहे हैं जरा भी कोई बात होती है तो हम आपको बताएं...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : उन्होंने दो सवाल पूछे हैं उनके जवाब दीजिए। यह बताइए कि बास्केट में क्या क्या है, किन किन चीजों के दाम इकट्ठे करते हैं और दूसरा यह कि क्या पुराने दामों को लेते हैं या रोज रोज की जो बिक्री होती है उसको लेते हैं ?

श्री बाल गोविन्द वर्मा : हम रोज रोज के दामों को लेते हैं, पुराने दामों को नहीं लेते हैं। और जैसा मैंने बताया जिस प्रकार से और जिन स्थानों से हम लोग प्राइसेज को कलैक्ट करते हैं उसमें जो चीजें रोजमर्रा की होती हैं उनकी प्राइसेज कलैक्ट की जाती हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : कुछ आइटम्स के नाम आपके पास हों तो दो चार के नाम सुना दीजिए।

श्री बाल गोविन्द वर्मा : जी हां, हाउस रेंट, एजूकेशन, रिक्रीएशन, एम्यूजमेंट, मेडिकल केयर, पर्सनल सर्विस .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह सर्विसेज की बात आप कर रहे हैं, वह आइटम्स के नाम जानना चाहते हैं, दो चार आइटम्स के नाम बता दीजिए।

श्री बाल गोविन्द वर्मा : जहां तक फूड के सम्बन्ध में है, हम सीरियल्स, पल्सेज, आयल्स एण्ड फैट्स, मीट फिश, एग्स इत्यादि के दाम कलेक्ट करते हैं और उसमें पान सुपारी, हल्दी इत्यादि सब आ जाते हैं।

SHRI D K PANDA: A serious situation has arisen now. Between January and March the workers have been affected because of the inflated figures relating to consumer price index Each one on an average has suffered a loss of 20 rupees per month. The entire working class has given facts and figures, especially, the Indian Labour Journal has given this information for January to March, 1976 saying that the basket of essential constitute 60 per cent Except groundnut oil, the prices of all the other commodities

like wheat, arhar dhal, gram dhal, coconut oil, sugar, kerosene etc. have gone up. The table shows that the prices are galloping. It was stated that it had come down from 335 to 323 in December 1975. I want to know, in view of the past experience—if the past experience is to be any guide—whether, as in Gujarat, Bombay and also in West Bengal, several high-power Committees have been set up or the Government is going to set up any such highpowered Committees in other places also so that the bungling done by the persons entrusted with the job of collection of statistics can be stopped by such high-powered Committees?

It is known and admitted also that those very persons who are collecting the figures are hand-in-glove with the employers against the interests of the working-class

श्री बाल गोविन्द वर्मा . मैं इस बात को नहीं जानता कि जो हमारे प्राइस कलेक्टर्स हैं वे वहां के लोगों से मिले हुए है। उनके ऊपर कितनी ही चेक्स हैं जैसे प्राइस कलेक्टर्स पाइसेज इकट्ठी करते हैं उसकी चेकिंग प्राइस सुपरवाइजर करते हैं। सुपरवाइजर के अलावा रीजनल आफिसर्स नियुक्त किए गए है जो कि कलकत्ता, मद्रास, बाम्बे, कानपुर और अहमदाबाद में भी रखे गए है। वे भी इसकी चेकिंग करते है। इसके अलावा जब लेबर ब्यूरो में यह जाता है तो वहां पर भी हमारे योग्य लोग बैठे हुए है, वे भी उसके ऊपर जानकारी करते हैं और अगर कहीं पर कोई चक्र होता है तो उसकी पुनः जानकारी प्राप्त करते हैं।

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Relations between India and Nepal

*222. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether relations between India and Nepal have taken another turn for the better;

(b) whether consultations on Nepal's prestigious Karnali project have been progressing satisfactorily; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) Yes, Sir. The exchange of visits at various levels in the recent past have strengthened mutual understanding between the two countries.

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) Indian technical experts are associated with the work of the Consultants appointed by HMG, Nepal, for the preparation of the Project report. Indian officials and engineers are also in touch with their counterparts in Nepal on matters relating to the Project

जयपुर में आयुर्वेदिक अनुसन्धान की स्थापना

*230. **श्री लालजी भाई** : क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या जयपुर (राजस्थान) में हाल ही में एक आयुर्वेदिक अनुसन्धान सस्थान स्थापित किया गया है, और

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्सम्बन्धी रूपरेखा क्या है ?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (चौधरी राम लेवक) : (क) जी हां।

(ख) भारत सरकार ने आयुर्वेद में स्नातक पूर्व, स्नातकोत्तर और अनुसन्धान सम्बन्धी अध्ययनों के लिए उच्च स्तरीय सुविधाएं उपलब्ध करने और सामान्यतया आयुर्वेद की उन्नति और विकास करने के उद्देश्य से जयपुर में एक राष्ट्रीय आयुर्वेद संस्थान खोल दिया है। यह संस्थान राजस्थान

सोसाइटीज/रजिस्ट्रेशन अधिनियम, 1958 के अधीन पंजीकृत है । यह एक स्वायत्त संस्थान है और इसका संचालन केन्द्रीय स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन मन्त्री की अध्यक्षता में एक शासी निकाय द्वारा किया जाता है ।

राष्ट्रीय आयुर्वेद संस्थान को राजकीय आयुर्वेदिक कालिज जयपुर तथा उसका अस्पताल और सूरजमल बाम्बेवाला आयुर्वेद अस्पताल, जयपुर हस्तांतरित करने के लिए राजस्थान सरकार राजी हो गई है । यह संस्थान इस समय जिस स्तर पर खर्च कर रहा है उसी स्तर पर राज्य सरकार इसे पांचवी योजना में आर्थिक सहायता तथा सामान्य विकास खर्चा देगी और औषधि उद्यान का विकास करने तथा छात्रों और स्टाफ के लिए निवासी मकान बनाने के लिए अपेक्षित जमीन भी उपलब्ध करेगी । संस्थान का शेष खर्च केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा वहन किया जाएगा ।

Complaints about Technical Inefficiency and Billing System of S.T.D.

*231. SHRI VARKEY GEORGE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a large number of complaints about the low level of technical efficiency and the billing system of the S.T.D; and

(b) if so, the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA). (a) and (b). A few complaints about functioning of S.T.D. service and excess billing have been received and have been looked into for remedial action.

The working of STD is affected by many factors including equipment, traffic, etc. However, the performance is kept under constant watch and steps are taken on a continuing basis to improve the service. A few of the major steps taken are:

(i) Circuits (channels) on a congested route are being augmented as early as feasible.

(ii) The Telecommunication Research Centre has evolved a series of circuit improvements which are being incorporated to overcome service deficiencies such as disconnections of calls during conversation, no-tone, etc.

(iii) A Departmental Committee of experts has gone into the causes of the shortcomings in the working of S.T.D. The Committee in its report submitted in July, 1976 has suggested several short and long-term measures which are under consideration

(iv) The readings on all meters are recorded every fortnight and any sudden spurt in the number of calls is investigated immediately. Complaints regarding excess billing are looked into urgently and rebate allowed to the subscribers wherever the discrepancies are found in the bill due to error or due to some technical defect in the equipment.

Financial Assistance for Development Programme in Nepal

*237. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the development programmes being implemented in Nepal with Indian financial assistance?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): India has been giving financial and technical assistance to Nepal since 1951 with a view to contributing to the all-round economic development of that country. The main development programmes for which assistance is being provided at present are in the fields of building of roads and bridges, establishment of telephone exchanges and telecommunications facilities, small scale industry, health and education.

Assistance given to States for Postal and Telecommunications Facilities

*238. SHRI GIRDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry have prepared the plan and provided money on Priority basis to the identified backward States and the districts for the development of communication facilities both posted and telecommunications soon after the identification in the current financial year;

(b) if so, the outlines thereof; and

(c) the financial assistance given to the States for these backward areas for the year 1976-77?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA): (a) and (b). *Telecommunication Facilities*: During the current year 800 P.C.Os. and 1100 telegraph offices are proposed to be opened in the country and circle-wise targets have been fixed. Financial allocations have also been made for every circle for telecommunication development in the whole circle including the backward areas in the circle. While telecommunication facilities are normally provided only when remunerative, but a liberal policy is followed in opening P.C.Os. and Telegraph Offices at certain categories of stations and are opened even if they involve some loss. The policy for category stations is placed on the table of the House. While a minimum revenue of 25 per cent of the annual expenditure is the criterion to be satisfied in ordinary areas, this is relaxed to 15 per cent in backward areas and 10 per cent in hilly areas.

Postal Facilities:

The Fifth Five Year Plan provides for opening of 7500 post offices at a financial outlay of Rs. 5 crores. Priority is given for opening post offices in every backward areas. For this purpose, the norms for opening of post offices in backward areas have been relaxed as follows:—

(i) the permissible limit of loss (PLL) for opening of post offices is Rs. 1000/- per annum as against Rs. 750/- p.a. in normal rural areas with population of 2000 or more, and Rs. 500/- per annum in areas where the population is less than 2000. In exceptional cases, PLL is allowed upto Rs. 2500/-.

(ii) the minimum income required is 15 per cent of the cost in backward areas and 10 per cent in hilly areas as against 25 per cent of the cost for normal rural areas.

(iii) no condition regarding population is applicable in backward areas.

(c) *Telecommunications*:

No direct financial assistance is given by the P&T Department apart from the above concessional treatment.

Postal:

Rs. 12 lacs have been allocated to various postal circles in 1976-77. No separate allocation is made for backward areas.

STATEMENT

Revised policy for opening of Telegraph offices (Combined offices) and Public Call Offices on loss basis during 5th Five Year Plan.

The policy for opening of PCOs/COs on loss during the 4th Five-Year Plan as enunciated in letters No. 53-2/71-TPL dated 14-1-72 and 9-6-72 and amended *vide* letters Nos. 53-2/71-T.P.L 31-8-72 and again on 31-8-72 has been reviewed. The P&T Board has been pleased to revise this policy as under for the 5th Five Year Plan:—

I. Telegraph and Telephone facilities shall be progressively extended to different categories of stations as indicated below subject to an overall limit of loss not exceeding Rs. 80

lakhs for providing both these facilities during the 5th Five Year Plan i.e. from 1-4-74 to 31-3-1979.

II. *Telegraph (Combined) Officers.*

Combined (Telegraphs) offices may be opened at the category stations listed at 1,2 and 3 below, without limit of loss and at 4 and 5 with a limit of loss of Rs. 2,000 per annum in each case in ordinary areas and Rs. 5,000 in each case in hilly and backward areas. The estimated revenue shall be at least 25 per cent of the Annual Recurring Expenditure. In the case of backward and hilly areas the percentage shall be at least 15 and 10 respectively.

1. Sub-Divisional Tehsil and Sub-Tehsil, Headquarters and corresponding stations.

2. Towns or villages with Police stations under the charge of an officer not lower in rank than a Sub-Inspector of Police.

3. Block Headquarters

4. Out of the way places i.e. places not having a Telegraph office within 20 Kms. (Radial Distance). 200 Telegraphs offices to be opened.

5(a) Places with a population of over 5,000 in ordinary areas and over 2,500 in hilly and backward areas. For considering the figures of population, the population of the village or town proper only should be taken into account and not that of a group of villages or towns.

(b) Tourists Centres including Pilgrim Centres and Agricultural, Irrigation and Power, Project sites and townships.

NOTES (i) The number of offices to be opened in respect of 5(b) and 5(c) together will be restricted to 100.

(ii) As provided in para 142-C of P&T Manual Vol. IX no telegraph office should be opened on loss if another Telegraph offices is already working within 8 Kms. radius of the proposed office.

III. *Public Call Offices:*

Public Call Offices may be opened on loss at the following categories of stations subject to the estimated revenue being at least 25 per cent of the Annual Recurring Expenditure. In the case of backward and hilly areas this percentage shall be at least 15 and 10 respectively.

1. Sub-Divisional Headquarter towns.

2. Tehsil and Corresponding Headquarter towns.

3. Sub-Tehsil—Headquarter towns.

4. Block Headquarters.

5. Places with a population of over 10,000 in ordinary areas and 5,000 in hilly and backward areas.

6. Places with population of over 5,000 in ordinary areas and 2,500 in hilly and backward areas situated within 12.5 Kms. (Radial Distance) from an existing telephone exchange. For considering the figures of population, the population of the village or town proper only should be taken into account and not that of a group of villages or town.

7. Places in remote localities—Such a place shall be defined as a place not having a telephone exchange within 40 Kms. (Radial Distance). 200 PCOs to be opened.

8(a) Tourist Centres, including Pilgrim Centres; and

(b) Agriculture, Irrigation and Power, Project sites and townships.

NOTE (i):—The number of officers under categories 8(a) and 8(b) together shall be restricted to 200 PCOs.

(ii) The instructions contained in the Directorate letter No. 12-4/61-TPL dated 21-12-62 regarding submission of quarterly statements of the proposals sanctioned on loss basis for the opening of PCOs Telegraph Offices, (Combined Offices) should continue to be observed and returns submitted to this office regularly and in time.

(iii) The financial powers of the Heads of Circles for sanctioning proposals on loss will be Rs. 3,000 for a Combined Office and Rs. 5,000 for a Public Call Office in each case subject to the fulfilment of prescribed conditions.

Ratnagiri Aluminium Project

*239. SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Aluminium Plant at Ratnagiri was sanctioned in April, 1974 at an estimated cost of more than Rs. 78 crores;

(b) whether Rs. 50 crores or thereabout were sanctioned for the Fifth Plan period;

(c) the amount spent on the project so far and how much has been surrendered; and

(d) whether the cost of the Project has gone up considerably owing to delay in implementation of the project and if so, the new estimates of the cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The estimate of Rs. 78 crores was based on 1973 prices.

(b) and (c). Plan provision of Rs. 50 crores was included in the draft Fifth Plan for this project, with the balance to spill over into the Sixth Plan. Initial funds were provided to meet the cost of land acquisition, preparation of Detailed Project Reports, salaries of nucleus staff etc. and a total expenditure of Rs. 1.69 crores has been incurred upto 31-3-76; the question of surrendering any such amount, thus, did not arise.

Subsequent to the draft Fifth Plan document being drawn up, however, the general constraint of resources compelled re-examination of many projects like this one on which substantial start had not yet been made and for which steady flow of funds year to year till completion could not be foreseen.

(d) The estimated cost of this project now is about Rs. 105 crores based on 1976 prices. Such increase is inescapable in respect of projects that could not be financed earlier.

Interim relief to journalists

*240. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wage Board for Working Journalists has recommended interim relief;

(b) if not, the reasons for this abnormal delay; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to expedite the same?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) to (c). The Central Government had requested the Wage Board, in February, 1976, for its views on interim rates of wages in respect of working Journalists. The Board is seized of the matter and its views on the subject are expected sometime in September, 1976.

मनोविकारों के इलाज के लिये उपलब्ध सुविधाएं

*241. श्री मूल चन्द डागा : क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या देश में मनोविकारों के इलाज के लिए पर्याप्त सुविधाएं उपलब्ध हैं; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो पांचवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में इस उद्देश्य के लिए कितनी धनराशि का नियतन किया गया है ?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (चौधरी राम सेवक) : (क) और (ख) पांचवीं पंवर्षीय योजना के दौरान देश में मनोविकारों के इलाज के लिए भारत सरकार द्वारा 65.54 लाख रुपए की राशि का नियतन किया गया है । यह व्यवस्था राज्य सरकारों द्वारा अपने वार्षिक बजट में से खर्च की गई राशि के अतिरिक्त है ।

मध्य प्रदेश के कुछ जिलों में टेलीफोन तथा डाक व तार सेवाओं के विस्तार पर हुआ खर्च

1601. **श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय** : क्या संचार मंत्री मध्य प्रदेश के कुछ जिलों में टेलीफोन तथा डाक तार सेवाओं के विस्तार पर हुए खर्च के बारे में 29 अप्रैल, 1976 के अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 2902 के उत्तर के संबंध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भाग (क) और (ख) में पूछी गयी जानकारी इस बीच एकत्र कर ली गई है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी रूप-रेखा क्या है ; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो यह जानकारी एकत्र करने में कितनी समय लगने की संभावना है ?

संचार मंत्री (डा० शंकर दयाल शर्मा) : (क) जी हां वांछित सूचना एकत्र की गई थी और उस से सभा पटल पर रखने के लिए 4-6-1976 संसदीय कार्य विभाग को भेज दिया गया था ।

(ख) एक विवरण पत्र संलग्न है जिस में अपेक्षित सूचना दे दी गई है ।

(ग) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता ।

विवरण

क्रम और तारीख	विषय	दिया गया आश्वासन	कब और कैसे पूरा किया गया ।
श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय का 29-476 का अतारंकित प्रश्न संख्या 902.	पूछा गया था— (क) मध्य प्रदेश के रायसेन भोपाल और सीहोर जिलों में मार्च, 1972 से मार्च, 1976 के दौरान टेलीफोनों के विस्तार और डाक तार सेवाओं के विस्तार में किया गया खर्च, और (ख) विभाग द्वारा भवन निर्माण पर प्रति वर्ष किया गया खर्च ।	(क) और (ख) सूचना एकत्रित की जा रही है जिसे लोक-सभा पटल पर प्रस्तुत कर दिया जाएगा ।	(क) तथा कथित तीन जिलों में डाकतार सेवाओं के विस्तार में किया गया कुल खर्च इस प्रकार है —

जिला	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	योग
रायसेन	284000	57940	47969	135427	525336
भोपाल	2387535	1529993	810178	3350042	8077748
सीहौर	142742	101769	321934	813771	1380216

(ख) ऊपर (क) में उल्लिखित कुल व्यय में से भवन निर्माण पर किया गया खर्च इस प्रकार है —

जिला	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	योग
रायसेन	..	..	..	..	..
भोपाल	84000	156581	162200	138308	541089
सीहोर		..	10000	181167	191167

* टेलीफोन सेवा मिलाकर ।

मध्य प्रदेश में संचार तथा डाक सेवाओं के लिये धनराशि का नियतन

1602. श्री गंगाचरण दीक्षित : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष 1975-76 में मध्य प्रदेश में दूर संचार तथा डाक सेवाओं के लिये कितनी धनराशि नियत की गई ;

(ख) इस राशि में से मध्य प्रदेश के घोषित पिछड़े जिलों पर कितनी धनराशि व्यय की गई है ;

(ग) गत वर्ष तथा चालू वर्ष में पिछड़े जिलों के विकास के बारे में विभाग ने क्या मानदंड अपनाया ; और

(घ) क्या राज्य में असंतुलन को समाप्त करने के विचार से इन क्षेत्रों के लिए धनराशि के नियंत्रण को प्राथमिकता देने के बारे में मंत्रालय ने मध्य प्रदेश सर्किल को कोई मार्गदर्शी सिद्धांत और और अनुदेश दिये हैं?

संचार मंत्री (डा० शंकर दयाल शर्मा) : (क) वर्ष 1975-76 के दौरान विकास के लिए मध्य प्रदेश सर्किल के लिए नियत की गई रकम का ब्यौरा इस प्रकार है :—

डाक सेवायें :—14.47 लाख रुपये

दूर संचार सेवायें:— 482 लाख रुपये

(ख) पिछड़े जिलों के विकास पर खर्च की गई रकम इस प्रकार है :—

डाक सेवायें :—1.47 लाख रुपये।

दूरसंचार सेवायें : 252 लाख रुपये

(ग) और (घ):—डाक सेवाएं: अत्यन्त पिछड़े इलाकों में निम्नलिखित मानदंडों पर नये डाकघर खोले जा सकते हैं। यथा :

(1) 1,000 रुपये वार्षिक घाटे की स्वीकार्य सीमा पर (सर्किलों के अध्यक्षों की शक्तियों के अंतर्गत) और 2500 के रुपये वार्षिक कार्य सीमा पर (डाक-तार महा निदेशक की शक्तियों के अन्तर्गत) जब कि सामान्य देहाती इलाकों के लिए उन मामलों में जहां की आबादी 2000 से अधिक है 750 रुपये वार्षिक की अधिकतम सीमा और उन मामलों में जहां की आबादी 2000 से कम हो 500 रुपये वार्षिक की अधिकतम सीमा तक खोले जाते हैं।

(2) जनसंख्या के संबंध में कोई प्रतिबन्ध नहीं है ।

(3) लागत की कम से कम 15 प्रतिशत आमदनी पर जब कि सामान्य इलाकों के लिए लागत की 25 प्रतिशत आमदनी निर्धारित है ।

डाक सुविधाओं के विस्तार से के उद्देश्य से विभाग ने मध्य प्रदेश के बहुत अधिक इलाको को अत्यंत पिछड़े इलाके घोषित किये हैं। और वहां अधिक से अधिक डाकघर खोले जा रहे हैं। मध्य प्रदेश के पिछड़े इलाकों में अधिक से अधिक गांवों में रोखाना डाक बांटने की व्यवस्था की भी जा रही है ।

दूर संचार : आमतौर पर दूरसंचार सेवाएं आवश्यकता के अनुसार दी जाती हैं बशर्ते कि उन के प्रस्ताव लाभकर हों। इन सेवाओं में नये टेलीफोन एक्सचेंजों की स्थापना, मौजूदा एक्सचेंजों का विस्तार, ट्रंक एक्सचेंजों का खोलना/विस्तार करना, नई लाइनें/तारों का निर्माण कैरियर प्रणालियों की स्थापना, तार सर्किटों/तारघरों की व्यवस्था करना

आदि शामिल हैं। किन्तु वास्तविक रूप में उन सेवाओं की व्यवस्था करना साज सामान और वित्तीय साधनों तक सीमित है। देश के देहाती इलाकों में दूर संचार सुविधाओं का विस्तार करने के उद्देश्य से कुछ घाटा होने के बावजूद सार्वजनिक टेली-फोन घर और तार घर खोलने के लिये एक उदार नीति अपनाई जा रही है। इसके लिए स्थान का महत्व जैसे कि वह कोई जिला/उपमंडल/तहसील/खंड मुख्यालय हो, मौजूदा टेलीफोन एक्सचेंजों से उस की दूरी उस स्थान की जन संख्या कि उस स्थान का स्थानीय महत्व जैसे कि पर्यटन / तीर्थ स्थान, बिजली / सिंचाई परियोजना स्थल आदि जैसी विभिन्न बातों को ध्यान में रखा जाता है। सामान्य इलाकों में उपर्युक्त श्रेणी के स्थानों में टेलाफोन / संयुक्त डाक तार घर सुविधाओं की मंजूरी के लिए जहां यह शर्त है कि उस की न्यूनतम अनुमानित आमदनी उसके वार्षिक आवर्ती व्यय के 25 प्रतिशत भाग के बराबर होनी चाहिये वहां पिछड़े इलाकों के लिए आमदनी वार्षिक आवर्ती व्यय के 15 प्रतिशत और पहाड़ी इलाकों के लिये 10 प्रतिशत के बराबर रखी गई है।

भारत द्वारा विदेशों में इस्पात संयंत्रों की स्थापना

1603. **श्री ज्ञानेश्वर प्रसाद यादव** : क्या इस्पात और खान मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या भारत द्वारा विदेशों में इस्पात संयंत्रों की स्थापना का प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है, और

(ख) यदि हां, तो किन-किन देशों में और उनमें से प्रत्येक में कितनी-कितनी राशि लगाये जाने की सम्भावना है?

इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री सुखदेव प्रसाद) : (क) और (ख) विदेशों में सर्वतोमुखी इस्पात कारखाने लगाने के बारे में कोई प्रस्ताव इस समय सरकार के विचाराधीन नहीं है। लेकिन बहुत से दूसरे देशों में सर्वतोमुखी इस्पात कारखानों/इस्पात के लघु संयंत्रों की स्थापना से सम्बन्धित परामर्शी, रूपांकन तथा इंजीनियरी कार्य प्राप्त करने के लिए प्रयत्न किये जा रहे हैं।

चन्द्रशेखर आजाद और शहीद भगत सिंह की स्मृति में डाक टिकटें जारी किया जाना

1604. **श्री भगीरथ भंवर** : क्या संचार मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या सरकार चन्द्रशेखर आजाद और शहीद भगतसिंह की स्मृति में विशेष डाक टिकट जारी करने पर विचार कर रही है?

संचार मंत्री (डा० शंकर दयाल शर्मा) : श्री चन्द्रशेखर आजाद के सम्मान में स्मारक डाक टिकट जारी करने का प्रस्ताव फिलैटली सलाहाकार समिति की अगली बैठक में विचारार्थ पेश कर दिया जायेगा। शहीद भगतसिंह के सम्मान मे 20 पैसे मूल्य वर्ग का एक डाक टिकट उनकी 61वीं जयन्ती पर 19 अक्तूबर, 1968 को पहले ही निकाला जा चुका है।

Requirement of D.T.C. Buses

1605. SHRI VEKARIA
SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment about the requirement of D.T.C. Buses for resettlement colonies in the Union Territory of Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of buses required to link these areas with important business centres; and

(c) to what extent the demand is being presently met?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes. A random survey has been carried out by the Delhi Transport Corporation in this respect.

(b) It has been assessed that about 400 buses are required for this purpose.

(c) 178 buses have already been deployed on the routes serving the resettlement colonies. Applications are being invited by the Corporation for engagement of the remaining number of buses under its operational control.

Demand for Aluminium

1606. SHRI RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the demand for aluminium in the country during the last two years; and

(b) the quantity of aluminium imported during the last two years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) and (b). The demostic off-take of aluminium in the country and the quantity of aluminium imported during the last two years, *viz.* 1974-75 and 1975-76, are given below:

(In tonnes)

Year	Domestic off-take (Approx.)	Import
1974-75	128,000	148
1975-76	159,000.	4,841

National Highways Act

1607. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a final decision on the demand of the Kerala State Government to amend Section 3 of the National Highways Act by raising the population size of the Municipal area from the present twenty thousand to one lakh or more population; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) It has since been decided not to amend Section 3 of the National Highways Act, 1956 as suggested by the Government of Kerala.

Steel export targets

1608. SHRI M. S. PURTY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the targets of steel export during 1975-76; and

(b) the progress made in exporting steel in comparison to that of last year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) Target for export of iron and steel during 1975-76 was 11.24 lakh tonnes.

(b) Export of iron and steel during 1975-76 was 797,930 tonnes valued at Rs. 110.09 crores. Export of iron and steel during April—July 1976 was 861,710 tonnes valued at Rs. 107.19 crores. Targets for export of iron and steel during 1976-77 is 2.5 million tonnes.

New Gold Mining areas

1609. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent surveys carried out by Government have revealed the possibilities of new gold mining areas in the country;

(b) if so, facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to develop and explore the new gold mines?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) and (b). Exploration for gold conducted recently has revealed gold mineralisation in Motaggert's vertical shaft area of Mysore Mine of Kolar Gold Field; extension area of East Betrayaswamy and Manigatta in Karnataka; and in Mallappakonda and towards the southern extension of K.G.F. in Bisanattam in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) Bharat Gold Mines Ltd. has taken up detailed exploration and developmental work in some of the areas and the exploration will start only after this work has established proper auriferous zones.

Payment of equal wages to men and women in Tamil Nadu

1610. SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether at a percolation pond site near Radhapuram, a drought-hit area at Tamil Nadu, equal wages are not paid to men and women; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) and (b). According to information received from the State Government, a percolation pond is being executed near Radhapuram in Tirunelveli District through piece-work Contractors, by the State Agriculture Department.

Both men and women workers are employed. Men are engaged for strenuous work, like digging the earth with crowbares and pick-axes, and are paid higher wages for this. Women do lighter work, like carrying the soil in baskets to the bund of the pond. Since the nature of work is different, the wages paid are also different. For removal of earth, payment is made on the basis of quantity of earth removed, regardless of the fact whether the workers are men or women.

बेलाडिला पेलेटाइजेशन प्लांट

1611. डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पाडेय : क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मध्य प्रदेश के बस्तर जिले के बेलाडिला में स्थापित किये जा रहे 'पेलेटाइजेशन प्लांट' की वर्तमान स्थिति क्या है ;

(ख) क्या इस सम्बन्ध में इंजीनियर्स इण्डिया की रिपोर्ट प्राप्त हो गई है ;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने इस बारे में कोई सभाव्यता प्रतिवेदन तैयार किया है ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में अब तक क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री सुखदेव प्रसाद) : (क) और (ख) बेलाडिला के लोह अयस्क के चूरे तथा ब्लू डस्ट का उपयोग करने के लिए पेलेट बनाने के एक संयंत्र की स्थापना की परियोजना की मुख्य-मुख्य बातों के बारे में मेटालर्जीकल एण्ड इंजीनियरिंग कन्सलटैन्टस इंडिया लि० ने अध्ययन किया है। उन्होंने सिफारिश की है कि अयस्क के विस्तृत परीक्षण के लिए कार्यक्रम तैयार किया जाय तथा एलरी पाइप लाइन द्वारा परिवहन की तकनीकी-आर्थिक शक्यता के बारे में और अध्ययन किया जाये बेलाडिला से विशाखापत्तनम तक एलरी पाइप लाइन द्वारा परिवहन प्रणाली पर इंजीनियर्स (इंडिया)

लिमिटेड के प्रारम्भिक अध्ययन की रिपोर्ट 1972 में प्राप्त हुई थी। एसरी परिवहन के लिए विस्तृत तकनीकी-आर्थिक शक्यता अध्ययन करने का विचार किया जाता है।

(ग) और (घ). आवश्यक वित्तीय साधन उपलब्ध न होने के कारण इस संबंध में कोई विशेष प्रगति नहीं हो पाई है। फिर भी, हाल में कुछ अनुकूल परिस्थितियों को देखते हुए इस प्रायोजना के लिए तकनीकी-आर्थिक शक्यता प्रतिवेदन तैयार कराने के उद्देश्य से आवश्यक अध्ययन कराने के लिए वित्तीय पहलुओं पर विचार किया जा रहा है।

Upgradation of State Highways in Gujarat

1612. SHRI FATEHSINGHRAO GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) number of State Highways proposed to be upgraded as National Highways in Gujarat;

(b) the progress made in that direction; and

(c) the steps taken to expand the National Highway system in Gujarat State to achieve targets proposed in the 20 year plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND RANSPORT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to the action proposed to be taken for new additions to the existing National Highway System in Gujarat so as to achieve the targets proposed in the Report of Chief Engineers on Road Development Plan for India (1961—81). The Plan suggested in that report however is intended only to serve as a broad guide for the formulation of detailed programmes by the Central and State Governments concerned depending, inter alia, upon the availability of resources. The total length of National Highways in Gujarat was 1062 Kms. on 31st March, 1969. It was raised to 1352 Kms. in the 4th Plan. Owing to financial constraints, the Government of India are unable to consider any proposal for any new addition to the existing National Highways System in any State at present.

Sanction of project allowance to P&T Employees working near Barauni Fertiliser Corporation

1613. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Post and Telegraphs Department had sanctioned project allowance to its employees working within a radius of 20 km. from the site of Barauni Fertiliser Corporation in Bihar in 1970;

(b) if so, the main features thereof;

(c) whether the same facility was withdrawn later on;

(d) whether the Finance Ministry have sanctioned the same project allowance to its employees working in the Income-Tax Department in that area and the Barauni Branch of the AIRMS and MMS employees class III has made representation for revival of the project allowance; and

(e) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Project allowance was sanctioned to the P&T staff working in P&T offices situated at Begusarai, Barauni, Hathidah, Mokameh and other places lying within a radius of 20 Wms. from the factory site at the same rates and subject to the same terms and conditions as applicable to the Project staff of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd., Barauni.

(c) Yes, Sir, except in respect of Uparrahnagar Post Office.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) As per the instructions of the Ministry of Finance the grant of project allowance to the Income Tax employees and others was to be reviewed by the Administrative Ministries. The question whether the Income-Tax employees are correctly drawing the project allowance in these areas is being looked into by the Ministry of Finance.

Foreign tours of Central Ministers

1614. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Ministers who toured foreign countries during the year 1975-76; and

(b) the main purpose of their visit?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House as early as possible.

Working of Bhandari Mill, Indore

1615. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee has been appointed to look into the working of the Bhandari Mill (Hope Textile Mill Ltd.), Indore;

(b) whether the Committee has submitted its report; and

(c) if so, the main points thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) to (c). The National Industrial Committee on Textile (Private Sector) which is purely a Bipartite Body set up by the National Apex Body, at its meeting held on June 17, 1976 referred the case of Hope Textile Mill, Indore to the Standing Expert Committee to investigate into its affairs, explore the possibilities of preventing its closure and to submit its report for the next meeting of the National Industrial Committee on Textile (Private Sector). The Standing Expert Committee met at Indore on the 6th July, 1976 and heard the representatives of the workers' Unions and also the Director of the Company. The Committee met again on 5th August, 1976 at New Delhi when the Director of the Mill explained that the management had made its own arrangement in regard to the financial requirements for the day to day running of the mill as also for undertaking immediate modernisations and that the company was not contemplating any closure, retrenchment or lay-off.

A copy of the conclusions of the meeting of the Expert Committee held on August 5, 1976 is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-11237/76].

Radar to check speed of Motorists

1616. SHRI BIBHUTI MISHRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have installed Radar in Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay and Patna to check the speed of motorists; and

(b) if so, how far it has proved effective?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). The Governments of Bihar and West Bengal have intimated that no radar has been installed in the cities of Patna and Calcutta.

The Delhi Administration have installed three Radars in the Capital to check the speed of motorists; with the help of this equipment, it has been possible to organise more checking on the speed of vehicles which would help control the tendency to our speeding.

Information in regard to Bombay is being collected from the Government of Maharashtra and will be laid on the table of the Sabha, when it is received.

Forcing Union Government's employees for sterilisation

1617. SHRI P. M. MEHTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are forcing its employees to go in for sterilisation and in many cases action has been taken;

(b) if so, in how many cases action has been taken and what was their explanation;

(c) whether Union Government had assured that there will be no forcible operation for sterilisation in the last session;

(d) whether in some States force has been used to take innocent people for sterilisation;

(e) whether in Delhi the teachers were transferred and pay stopped and in some cases removal from service has taken place;

(f) if so, whether Union Government has issued any direction to the State Governments not to use force and victimisation which will create disorder in the country; and

(g) if so, what is their reaction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Union Government have assured that no harassment takes place.

(d) No.

(e) The Delhi Administration has denied this.

(f) The Union Government has requested all States/Union Territories to implement the Family Planning Programme with imagination and understanding.

(g) State Governments/Union Territories have assured that the Family Planning Programme which is basic to the development of the country, is being implemented in the spirit of the National Population Policy.

India's participation in Paris talks

1618. DR. RANEN SEN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India participated in Paris talks for the betterment of economic order; and

(b) if so, how many meetings have taken place and with what results?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) Yes, Sir. India is one of the twenty-seven countries participating in the Conference on International Economic Cooperation which is being held in Paris. The Conference had met at the Ministerial level in December, 1975 and appointed 4 Commissions to deal with the problems of energy, raw materials, development and finance.

(b) The Commissions have held 5 sessions so far and there was also a mid-term review of the work of CIEC from 8 to 10th July, 1976 at the level of senior officials.

The discussions in the first phase of the Conference were primarily in tht shape of exchange of information and analyses. Even the work programme for the second and action-oriented phase has not yet been finalised and the July session of the Commissions ended in a deadlock. The Government of India are disappointed at the lack of concrete progress during the first phase of

CIEC. They trust that the current deadlock will be broken and that the developed countries would demonstrate their political will by cooperating in genuine efforts to create a new international economic order.

Expansion of I.T.I. unit in Jammu and Kashmir

1619. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:
SHRI SYED AHMED AGA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to expand Indian Telephone Industries unit in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Components Division of Indian Telephone Industries Ltd., at Srinagar is at present manufacturing components; such as telephone cords, fuses, moulded parts of telephone, etc. The Company have recently taken up a project, at a capital cost of approximately Rs. 1.66 lakhs, for assembling 50,000 telephones per year in the J&K unit. This project would create employment potential for about 100 workers ultimately and a sale value of Rs. 163 66 lakhs

Increase in road accidents

1620. SHRI P. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the study conducted by Central Road Research Institute has revealed that there has been a seven per cent increase in road accidents annually; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures proposed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes. Acording to this study, the number of road accidents in India increased by about 7.8 per cent per year, on an average, between the years 1960 and 1972. But, over the same period, the rate of road accidents per thousand motor vehicles, which was 91.7 in 1960, came down to 55.9 in 1972.

(b) Some of the remedial measures suggested by Central Road Research Institute are as under:—

(i) For the safety of pedestrians, various traffic engineering measures have been suggested, e.g. side-walks on both sides of the road, pedestrian malls in shopping centres, well marked pedestrian crossings, a separate green signal phase for pedestrians in the traffic signals at busy inter-sections, pedestrian operated push button type of signals at mid-block pedestrian crossings, subways and over-bridges, etc. A well planned education programme is needed to persuade pedestrians to avail themselves of the facilities provided for them.

(ii) For the safety of cyclists, cycle tracks of good quality on both sides of the road and segregation of cycle traffic from vehicular traffic at busy intersections have been suggested.

(iii) For the safety of motor cyclists, scooterists, wearing of safety helmets, both by drivers and pillion 'riders' has been recommended.

(iv) As, majority of the fatal and grievous injury accidents are caused by drivers of heavy motor vehicles like trucks and buses, safety aspects of both drivers and motor vehicles need due consideration.

(v) Various traffic regulations such as one-way streets, parking regulations, speed control, etc., which can put down the number of accidents, have been recommended to be introduced in the cities and towns.

(vi) Need to have basic uniform traffic laws and also supplementary model traffic regulations in the country has been stressed. These laws and regulations should be set down in the form of a Highway Code easily understood by the public. These should be published through pictures, posters, etc., so that even the illiterate persons can understand them.

(vii) For planning and directing road safety activities throughout the country constitution of a National Road Safety Council is recommended. There should also be State Road Safety Councils and District Road Safety Councils to co-ordinate the activities of various departments in the States and Districts respectively.

Declaring Tehsil and C. D. Block Headquarters as Category Stations for Opening Head Post Offices

1621. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the conditions and requirements for the sanction of a Head Post Office in a Revenue District which has already one Head Post Office; and

(b) whether in view of the increased workload on the sub post offices, there is any proposal to declare Tehsil Headquarters and C.D. Block Headquarters as category stations for the opening of Head Post Offices by liberalising the existing criteria?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA): (a) An additional Head Post Office in the same Revenue District can be sanctioned provided the number of Sub Post Offices attached to the existing Head Post Office exceeds 60 and both the new and the existing Head Office have at least 20 Sub Post Offices attached to each of them.

(b) There is no such proposal under consideration.

Amount Sanctioned for Medicines for A.I.I.M.S., Delhi

1622. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amout sanctioned for medicines for A.I.I.M.S., Delhi is lower than other medical institutes;

(b) whether present allocation is not sufficient to supply medicines to 750 beds in A.I.I.M.S.; and

(c) if so, the action taken in this regad?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING: (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE): (a) No.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Strikes in Industries

1623 SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state how many strikes took place and how many workers were involved, during the last one year, State-wise and industry-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-11238/76].

Charging of Fees for Treatment in Irwin Hospital

1624. SHRI JHARKHANDERAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to grievances of the public

regarding fees being charged for treatment in Irwin Hospital, Delhi;

(b) remedial steps being taken; and

(c) whether on account of fee charges, number of patients visiting this hospital is considerably reduced?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M ISHAQUE): (a) Yes.

(b) The Delhi Administration under whose control the Irwin Hospital is, has informed that there is no proposal to revise the decision to charge the fees. However, in emergent caces no fee is charged. Some categories of patients are exempt from the provision.

(c) The number of patients attending the hospital is reported to have dropped to some extent and not much.

Central Financial Liability for Development and Maintenance of Road Links in Kerala

1625. SHRI C. H. MOHAMED KOYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been entered into between Government of Kerala and the Ministry in regard to the acceptance of Central financial liability for the development and maintenance of road links in all towns in Kerala served by National Highways;

(b) if so, whether they have represented that the agreement should be given effect from the date of declaration of the roads as National Highways i.e. from 1-4-63 in the case of NH 47 and NH 47-A and from 7-3-1972 in the case of NH 17; and

(c) the reaction of Government to the suggestion of the State Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government of Kerala had made a request that instead of one agreement prescribed by the Government of India, they may be allowed to execute two separate agreements, namely, one for giving financial assistance to the State Government from retrospective dates, as mentioned in part (b) of the Question, and the other relating to State Government's responsibility for construction of parallel service roads; the second agreement to be given effect from the date of its execution. The State Government was informed in June, 1975, that their request for execution of two separate agreements as stated above could not be acceded to and that the State Government should reconsider the matter and enter into one composite agreement. As regards the dates from which the agreement should come into force, it was stated that the matter would be decided after the State Government had communicated their final views in the matter So far, no formal reply in the matter has been received from the State Government.

आल इण्डिया यूनिवर्सिटी एम्प्लाइज फेडरेशन द्वारा ज्ञापन

1626. श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या आल इंडिया यूनिवर्सिटी एम्प्लाइज फेडरेशन ने विश्व विद्यालय में काम करने वाले कर्मचारियों की मांगों के बारे में प्रधान मंत्री को कोई ज्ञापन दिया है ;

(ख) क्या इनकी एक प्रति उन्हें भी भेजी गई है, और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उस पर सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया क्या है ?

शिक्षा मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री लाल गोविन्द वर्मा) : (क) और (ख). जी हां।

(ग) विश्वविद्यालय राज्य शिक्षा विभाग या केन्द्रीय शिक्षा विभाग मंत्रालय के प्रशासनिक नियन्त्रण में आते है। विभिन्न मामों सम्बन्धी स्थिति संलग्न विवरण में दी गई है।

विवरण

क्रमांक	माग	टिप्पणी
(i)	सेवा की सुरक्षा . .	विश्वविद्यालयों के कर्मचारियों की सेवा की सुरक्षा संबंधित विश्वविद्यालयों के अधिनियमों/परिनियमों में शामिल उपबन्धों द्वारा शासित होती है। केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों के बारे में इस प्रयोजन के लिए पहले ही पर्याप्त व्यवस्था की गई है। केन्द्रीय सरकार ने राज्य सरकारों को सलाह दी है कि वे अपने विश्वविद्यालयों के लिए वैसे ही उपाय करें जैसे कि सरकार ने केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों के संबंध में किए हैं।
(ii)	समरूप वेतन-मान . .	केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों और दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालयों से सम्बद्ध महाविद्यालयों के इतर-अध्यापन कर्मचारियों के वेतनमानों में तीसरे वेतन आयोग की सिफारिशों के अनुसार संशोधन किया गया है। राज्यों के विश्वविद्यालयों के इतर-अध्यापन कर्मचारियों के वेतनमानों के साथ राज्य सरकारें संबंधित हैं। वे वेतनमान भी सामान्यतः संबंधित राज्य सरकारों के तदनुरूपी पदों के वेतनमानों के समरूप या समतुल्य हैं।
(iii)	समरूप सेवा नियम .	केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों के इतर-अध्यापन कर्मचारियों की सेवा की शर्तें लगभग समरूप हैं। जहां तक राज्यों के विश्वविद्यालयों के इस प्रकार के कर्मचारियों की सेवा शर्तों का संबंध है, वह काम संबंधित राज्य सरकारों का है। तथापि, विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग ने विश्वविद्यालयों के इतर-अध्यापन स्टाफ की सेवा शर्तों को शासित करने वाले नियमों की सिफारिश की है ताकि वे उन पर विचार करें।

क्रमांक	भाग	टिप्पणियां
(iv)	संघों को मान्यता	इस मामले पर गौर करना विश्वविद्यालयों का जाती काम है ।
(v)	संयुक्त सलाहकार तंत्र तथा कर्मचारियों का प्रबन्ध कार्य में भाग लेना	सरकार कर्मचारियों की शिकायतों को दूर करने हेतु संयुक्त तंत्र की स्थापना करने तथा विश्वविद्यालयों की चुनी गवर्निंग बॉडियों में इतर-अध्यापन कर्मचारियों को प्रतिनिधित्व देने के पक्ष में है । अलीगढ़ मुस्लिम यूनिवर्सिटी के संबंध में इनके अनुसार पहले ही कार्यवाही की जा चुकी है । अन्य केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों के मामले में भी, उनके परिनियमों में संशोधन करते समय वैसे ही उपबन्धों पर गौर किया जाएगा । राज्यों के विश्वविद्यालयों के संबंध में इस मामले पर गौर करना संबंधित राज्य सरकारों का काम है । विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग ने विश्वविद्यालयों को सलाह दी है कि वे कर्मचारियों के कल्याण तथा कार्मिकों संबंधी समस्याओं के लिए संयुक्त सलाहकार समितियां स्थापित करें ।

Development of Highway Research

1627. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Kerala has asked for assistance in Fifth Plan for the development of Highway Research facilities; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). An estimate amounting to Rs. 3 00 lakhs for establishing a road testing and control laboratory in Kerala was sanctioned in August, 1973 and grant-in-aid from the Central Road Fund (Ordinary) Reserve to the extent of one-half of the amount, subject to a maximum of Rs. 1.50 lakhs was approved, the balance amount being met by the State Government from their own resources. The work is in progress and an expenditure of Rs 1,56,030 has been incurred upto quarter ending June, 1976.

With regard to the further augmenting/upgrading the laboratory facilities in the State, the State Chief Engineer has intimated that he has sent a scheme costing Rs. 66.00 lakhs to his State Government suggesting to them to request the Government of India for allocating at least a sum of Rs 50.00 lakhs towards this scheme out of the Research and Development provision in the Central Road Sector

Plan. In view of similar requests from other States and limitation of resources, a broad scheme was prepared and discused recently at a meeting wherein the Joint Director, Kerala Highway Research Institute, was also present. The proposal of the Kerala Government requires to be reframed in the light of the discussions at the meeting when further action can be taken to examine the matter further along with similar requirements of other States on receipt of a reference from the State Government concerned.

नेपाल में भारतीय सहायता मिशन

1628. **श्री शंकरदयाल सिंह** : क्या **विदेश मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) भारतीय सहायता मिशन नेपाल में इस समय कितने कर्मचारी बेरोजगार हो गये हैं ; और

(ख) नेपाल में भारतीय सहायता मिशन के मुख्य कृत्य क्या हैं और चालू वर्ष में उस पर कितनी धनराशि व्यय की गई है ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री विपिन पाल दास) : (क) भारतीय सहयोग मिशन, जिसे पहले भारतीय सहायता मिशन कहा जाता था, के पद अस्थायी हैं और द्विपक्षीय आर्थिक सहयोग की जो परियोजनाएं हाथ में है उन्हें देखते हुए प्रतिवर्ष नवीकृत किए जाते हैं । चालू वित्त वर्ष में भारतीय सहयोग मिशन का कोई कर्मचारी बेरोजगार नहीं किया गया है ।

(ख) इस मिशन का मुख्य कार्य भारतीय सहायता से नेपाल में चलने वाले कार्यक्रमों की देखभाल करना है । इस उद्देश्य से भारतीय सहायता मिशन नई परियोजनाओं के प्रस्ताव तैयार करता है और, जब इन परियोजनाओं का अनुमोदन हो जाता है तब उनके संतोषजनक क्रियान्वयन का सुनिश्चय करता है ।

इस वित्तीय वर्ष में इस मिशन के निदेशालय पर 30 जून तक 3,81,900 रुपये खर्च हुए हैं । इसी अवधि में परियोजनाओं पर 2,28,76,197 रुपये खर्च हुए हैं ।

Notification of vacancies by private sector employers

1629. SHRI B. V. NAIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing laws governing notification of vacancies for employment by private sector employers, confer upon the employers the right to reject even eligible candidates sponsored by the employment agencies;

(b) if so, the reason why the procedure of notification by private employers is prescribed; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating any measures to enforce the employers to give jobs to worthy candidates on the rolls of employment exchanges all over the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) to (c). Under the Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1959, it is obligatory on the part of the employers in the private sector establishments employing 25 or more persons to notify the vacancies occurring in that establishment to the prescribed Employment Exchange before filling up the same

Although employers in the private sector do not at present have any statutory obligation to make recruitment through Employment Exchanges, the Employment Exchanges sponsor candidates against the vacancies notified by the private employers and use persuasive methods to enlist their cooperation in making recruitment from amongst the nominees of the Exchange.

Welfare Schemes for Agricultural Labourers in Orissa

1630. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state what are the schemes so far approved by the Central Government for the welfare of agricultural labourers in the State of Orissa during the last three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): Ministry of Labour is primarily concerned with legislation for the welfare of agricultural workers and in laying down guidelines. The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and the Trade Unions Act 1926 are applicable to agricultural labour. The Agricultural Establishments are not excluded from the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965. Agricultural Farms run on commercial lines are also covered under Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 The Employees Provident Funds Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 is applicable to agricultural labour engaged in specified Plantations. Workers employed in farming by tractors or other mechanical power or by electricity are already covered by the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.

The Government have set up a Standing Committee on Agricultural Labour, *inter-alia* to review the existing legislative and other provisions for the welfare of agricultural labour and to suggest a comprehensive legislation on the subject on the lines of Kerala Agricultural Workers Act 1974.

The Ministry of Works and Housing have formulated a country-wide scheme for provision of House-sites for landless agricultural labour in rural areas, free of cost Department of Agriculture has intimated that while distributing surplus land, priorities should be given to the landless Agricultural Workers, particularly those belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Department of Rural Development have formulated country-wide schemes such as Small Farmers Development Agency and Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labour Development Agency Projects to improve the economic conditions of the weaker sections and generate employment opportunities Department of Banking has intimated that the Commercial Banks have been instructed to extend financial assistance to landless agricultural labourers for productive purposes throughout the country.

No specific information is readily available for the last three years for the State of Orissa.

Formation of Postal and Telephone Advisory Committee

1631 SHRI P. R. SHENOY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Postal and Telephone Advisory Committees are still not formed at different levels in many States; and

(b) if so, facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA): (a) and (b). Advisory Committees at the State level are called Regional P & T Advisory Committees. Such Advisory Committees for the following States including Union Territories, have already been constituted —

(1) Meghalaya

(2) Nagaland

(3) Arunachal Pradesh

(4) Bihar

(5) Madhya Pradesh

(6) Kerala including Lakshadweep Island.

(7) Tamil Nadu including Pondicherry.

(8) Punjab.

(9) Himachal Pradesh

(10) West Bengal

(11) Maharashtra

(12) Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Nominations from the State of Manipur and Tripura and the Union Territory of Mizoram are awaited. Formation of Committees for the remaining States/Union Territories is in hand.

Calcutta Port Workers Face Termination

1632. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 5,000 workers are facing termination of service at Calcutta Port; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI): (a) and (b). With a view to making Calcutta Port operationally efficient and economically viable, the Calcutta Dock Labour Board, which is a tripartite body, resolved unanimously at a meeting held on 29-7-1976 that it had become absolutely necessary to re-organize the work-force of the Board in accordance with the present trends of traffic to be handled. Accordingly the Chairman of the Board was authorised to work out surpluses in each category of workers and then take steps for their retirement after paying suitable compensation. A concrete Scheme to that effect is being evolved.

राष्ट्रीय पोषण आहार सलाहकार समिति की सिफारिशों की क्रियान्विति

1633. **श्री मूल चन्द डागा** क्या **स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) राष्ट्रीय पोषण आहार सलाहकार समिति की सिफारिशें क्या है तथा उनका किस तरीके से क्रियान्वयन किया गया : और

(ख) क्या पोषण आहार विदो में आवश्यक अर्हताएं होना जरूरी है ?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री ए० के० एम० इसहाक) : (क) सूचना का एक विवरण संलग्न है ।

(ख) जी हां, केन्द्र और राज्यो में काम कर रहे सभी पोषण विशेषज्ञों के पास भारत। विदेश के किसी मान्यता प्राप्त विश्वविद्यालय मे पोषण विषय में अर्हता होनी चाहिए ।

विवरण

जून, 1970 में बम्बई में हुई चौथी आठवीं तथा अन्तिम बैठक में राष्ट्रीय पोषण सलाहकार समिति ने निम्नलिखित पांच संकल्प पारित किए हैं और उन्हें कार्यरूप देने के लिए जो कार्यवाही की गई वह प्रत्येक के आगे दिखाई गई है :—

सिफारिश	की गई कार्यवाही
1. पोषण कार्यक्रमों को सुचारु रूप से कार्यान्वित करने के लिए राज्यों के स्वास्थ्य निदेशालयों में पूर्ण उपकरणो से लैस राज्य पोषण प्रभाग खोले जाएं ।	विभिन्न राज्यो को इस बारे में लिखा गया और इस समय 18 राज्यों और 2 संघ शासित क्षेत्रो में राज्य पोषण प्रभाग खुले हुए हैं । शेष राज्यो/संघ शासित क्षेत्रों में पोषण प्रभाग खोलने के लिए कार्यवाही की जा रही है ।

सिफारिश	की गई कार्यवाही
2 केन्द्रीय और राज्य सरकारों का चाहिए कि वे यूनीसेफ के स्थान पर कोई अन्य प्रबन्ध करें के लिए तत्काल कार्यवाही करें क्योंकि यूनीसेफ प्रसूति शिशु स्वास्थ्य स्कीम मिल्क-फीडिंग कार्यक्रम से अलग हो रहा है।	'केयर' को मो०एस०एफ० (कार्न सोया-आटा) की सप्लाई करने के लिए अनुरोध किया गया और यह कार्यक्रम कुछेक राज्यों में फिर चालू हो गया है।
3 भारत के सलग्नड क्षेत्र में आने वाली राज्य सरकारों का चाहिए कि वे आयोडीकृत नमक का उपयोग अनिवार्य करने के लिए उचित उपाय करें और अनिवार्य वस्तु अधिनियम के अन्तर्गत गैर-आयोडीकृत नमक का न आने देने के लिए प्रतिबन्ध लगाए।	पश्चिम बंगाल, उत्तर प्रदेश, हिमाचल प्रदेश, मणिपुर, नागालैण्ड, जम्मू व कश्मीर, हरियाणा, पंजाब, बिहार राज्यों और चंडीगढ़ क्षेत्र ने अपने सलग्नड वाले इलाकों में गैर-आयोडीकृत नमक के आने पर रोक लगा दी है। मेघालय, असम त्रिपुरा राज्य और मिजोरम संघ शासित क्षेत्र अपने-अपने राज्य में यह रोक लगाने के मामले पर विचार कर रहे हैं।
4 राज्य पोषण प्रभागों का चाहिए कि राज्यों के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में खाद्य संबंधी पटनें का सर्वेक्षण करें और गृह-विज्ञान कालेजों की विशेष जानकारी का उपयोग करें।	राज्य पोषण कार्यालयों द्वारा खाद्य संबंधी आदतों का सर्वेक्षण किया जा रहा है और इस कार्य में गृह विज्ञान कालेज का भी सम्मिलित किया जा रहा है। इस सामग्री का पोषण एकक द्वारा राज्यों और संघ शासित क्षेत्रों में किए गए पोषण संबंधी कार्य की एक रिपोर्ट के रूप में प्रकाशित किया जा रहा है।
5 पोषण संबंधी जन संचार के क्षेत्र में पहले किए गए और वर्तमान में किए जा रहे प्रयासों की समीक्षा करने और भविष्य में किए जाने वाले सभी प्रयासों के लिए मार्गदर्शी सिद्धान्त तैयार करने के लिए एक उपसमिति गठित की जाए।	इस उप समिति का गठन किया गया और इसकी अनेक बैठक बुलाई गई। विभिन्न स्रोतों से सूचना एकत्र की गई। इस सूचना पर आधारित मार्गदर्शी सिद्धान्त बनाए गए जिन्हें पोषण से संबंधित विभिन्न विभागों/एजेंसियों को भेज दिया गया।

Telephone breakdowns in cities of West Bengal

1644 SHRI R. N. BARMAN Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether telephone users of Calcutta and other cities of West Bengal frequently suffer from long spells of telephone breakdowns;

(b) the month-wise statistics of breakdowns for the last one year for Calcutta; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the position?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA). (a) No, Sir. Only a small percentage (less than 4 per cent) of subscribers lines affected during rainy season, remained faulty for longer periods in Calcutta Telephone System.

(b) Monthwise fault statistics for Calcutta Telephones from August, 1975 to July, 1976 are—

Month	Faults/100 subscribes per month	Average duration per fault in hours.
August '75	30·95	4·6
September '75	28·45	3·81
October '75	26·45	4·55
November '75	25·47	4·58
December '75	22·79	3·67
January '76	23·06	3·74
February '76	24·39	4·19
March '76	25·83	7·72
April '76	26·37	4·33
May '76	29·03	7·59
June '76	25·69	4·79
July '76	30·07	5·34

(c) The following steps have been taken—

(i) The constructional and Development staff have been diverted for prompter fault clearance. Fault position is regularly being reviewed and special attention is being paid for clearance of long standing faults.

(ii) Close coordination is being maintained with the C.M.D.A. and other utility agencies for minimising the damages to the underground telephone cables and for early clearance of faults.

(iii) As a long term solution, pressurisation of junction and primary cables is being done progressively in Calcutta Telephones to reduce the fault incidence during the rainy season. As regards other Telephone Exchanges in West Bengal Telecom. Circle, a systematic overhauling and refitting of Distribution Points has been taken up. Special maintenance of overhead alignments is being carried out. Heavy overhead alignments are being progressively replaced by underground cables.

Ensuring Safety After Tubectomy

1635. SHRI R P. DAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state: the steps so far taken to ensure safety after Tubectomy legation and such other operations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE): Detailed instructions have been issued regarding proper selection of sterilisation cases, measures required to be taken to prevent complications and post operative care.

Further, following specific instruction have been issued to ensure safety after tubectomy operation:—

(i) Tubectomy operations by vaginal route should be done only in hospitals and by well trained and experienced doctors;

(ii) In camps where tubectomy operations are done it should be ensured that proper post operative care by the doctor who performed the operation is available for 2-3 days.

(iii) Cases operated for tubectomy should not be allowed to go home till the stitches are removed and they are perfectly normal;

(iv) Post partum tubectomy should not be done in those cases who have delivered at home and have not been immunised against Tetanus or in whom the possibility of post partum infection cannot be ruled out with certainty.

Steel Plants in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh

1636. SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up two steel plants one each in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD). (a) and (b). The Steel Authority of India Ltd. had commissioned MECON to prepare separate feasibility reports for setting up integrated steel plants in the Bailadila region in Madhya Pradesh and in the Surajgarh region in Maharashtra. These reports were received in the Steel Authority of India Ltd. in April-May, 1975 and are under examination.

Examination for Recruitment of Doctors

1637. SHRI R S. PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to hold examination for the recruitment of doctors; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A K M. ISHAQUE · (a) Yes

(b) The details are being worked out.

Development of Ancillary Industries by Bhilai Steel Plant

1638. SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY: DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bhilai Steel Plant Management has developed their ancillary industries; and

(b) if so, the reasons why six units already established have not been recognised?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) and (b) It is presumed the Hon'ble Member is referring to the Small Scale Industries set up around Bhilai Steel Plant. The Hindustan Steel Ltd., encourage the growth of small scale industries by giving them all possible assistance. Large number of items have been identified which can be manufactured by the small scale industries and due orders are placed on them for supply to the steel plant. The question of recognising these units as ancillaries has been considered by HSL Board and it was decided that as the items manufactured by these units do not form a part of the production process of the steel plant, they could not be considered as 'Ancillary Units'. The policy of the company however is to continue to encourage the growth of the small scale units by giving them assistance in terms of know-how, facilities, supply of raw materials etc.

Provision of Micro-Wave or Coaxial Channels Between Calcutta and Kharagpur-Midnapore and Calcutta and Asansol

1639. SHRI SUBODH HANSDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Televison Directorate has already provided microwave or

coaxial channels between Calcutta and Kharagpur-Midnapore and Calcutta and Asansol for introduction of television relay transmission; and

(b) if so, when Doordarshan will be given this facility?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA): (a) No, Sir. At present there is no demand from Doordarshan for TV transmission facility between Calcutta and Kharagpur (or Midnapore) and Calcutta and Asansol

(b) Does not arise.

पत्तनों में गैर-सरकारी जहाजी कुली

1640. श्री मोहन स्वरूप : क्या नौवहन और परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पत्तनों में गैर-सरकारी जहाजी कुलियों की व्यवस्था समाप्त करने की योजना को क्रियान्वित किया जा रहा है, और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उक्त व्यवस्था के स्थान पर जहाजी-कुलियों की नयी व्यवस्था की मुख्य बातें क्या हैं ?

नौवहन और परिवहन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एच० एम० पितोबे) : (क) और (ख) बड़े पत्तनों में जाबी जहाजी कुली व्यवस्था के बारे में सरकार ने अभी कोई अंतिम निर्णय नहीं किया है।

Welfare Fund for Salt Workers

1641. SHRIMATI ROZA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of the unstable nature of the salt workers in areas like the Rann of Kutch, the Central Government have decided to set up a welfare fund for the benefit of salt workers; and

(b) if so, the main features of the scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) No. Not yet.

(b) Does not arise.

Purchase of Buses by D.T.C.

1642. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether D.T.C. proposes to purchase more buses to meet the demand in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the number of buses to be added during the current financial year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). There is a provision in the current year's budget for purchase of 150 buses by Delhi Transport Corporation on replacement account. The Corporation has, however, deferred the pruchase of these buses for the present. It proposes to consolidate the operations with its existing fleet.

Rate of Royalty on Iron Ore

1643. SHRI NATHU RAM AHIRWAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the present rate of royalty on iron ore and the amount being given to Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the rate per tonne at which pig iron and steel are sold by the Steel Plants and the profit per tonne earned by them on these;

(c) whether the prices of pig iron and steel have doubled during the last few years; and

(d) whether any increase in the rate of royalty on iron ore is contem-

plated; if so, when will it be made effective?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) The present rates of royalty on various grades of iron ore varies from Rs. 0.35 to Rs. 2.00 per tonne.

The total mineral revenue recovered by the Madhya Pradesh Govt. on iron ore during the financial year 1975-76 was Rs. 1,53,48,000/-.

(b) The Joint Plant Committee price at which pig iron is sold by Steel Plants varies from Rs. 767/- to Rs. 907/- per tonne (F.O.R. Railway Head Station) depending on the quality of pig iron sold.

The rate at which steel is sold varies from category to category. The profit is worked out for the steel plant as a whole taking into account *inter-alia* transactions in various categories of iron and steel produced in particular steel plants in a year.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The question of revision of royalty rates on iron ore is under consideration.

Expansion of Durgapur Alloy Steel Plant

1644. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision regarding expansion of the Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur; and

(b) if so, when the expansion work will begin?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) and (b) No decision has been taken so far. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) had commissioned Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Limited (MECON) to prepare a pre-investment feasibility report on the expansion of the Alloy Steels Plant, Durgapur. MECON submitted the report in March, 1976. This is under scrutiny of SAIL.

Women displaced from Employment in Coal Mines

1645. SHRI CHAPALENDU BHATTACHARYYIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the number of women workers displaced from employment in the coal mines in loading, soft coke making and other ancillary operations in coal mines of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal, (i) after prohibition of Contract Labour and (ii) after passing of the Act equalising employments both for men and women workers in industrial employment?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): According to the information made available by the Department of Coal, Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiary companies have taken steps to abolish contract work in the prohibited categories *e.g.* (i) Raising or raising-cum-selling of coal; (ii) Coal loading and unloading; (iii) Overburden removal and earth cutting; (iv) Soft coke manufacturing; and (v) Driving of stones drifts and miscellaneous stone cutting underground. They have provided employment to some of the contract labour wherever required. Surplus and under-utilised labour in the subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd. is being gainfully deployed to attend to some of the jobs which were previously being done by contract labour. We have not received any representations or complaints relating to displacement of women workers in the Coal mines following the implementation of the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.

Cash Incentives for Sterilisation

1646. SHRI SHIV KUMAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cash amounts given as compensation for sterilisation are different in the centrally administered territories and the various States;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to the difference in these amounts the persons from neighbouring States go for sterilisation to those places where they get a bigger amount; and

(c) if so, whether Government are considering payment of uniform amount of cash incentive throughout the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K M. ISHAQUE): (a) According to the pattern of Central Assistance compensation money for sterilisation is given at uniform rates to all the States and Union Territories Some of the States and Union Territories have augumented the compensation money from other sources in order to boost up the implementation of Family Planning Programme.

(b) People go to the Centres of their choice for Family Planning Services. They may have various reasons in selecting the centres such as proximity to their houses, other conveniences or the like

(c) Does not arise.

Telephones and Public Call Offices in East Champaran District

1647. SHRI BIBHUTI MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telephones in the district headquarters of East Champaran namely, Motihari and Public Call Offices at Arra, Mangurha and Naharpur and other places remained out of order;

(b) if so, whether Government contemplate any scheme to get these corrected; and

(c) if so, the nature of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Meeting of National Industrial Committee on Textiles (Apex)

1648. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: SHRI P. M. MEHTA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the National Industrial Committee on Textiles (Apex) was held in Delhi in the first week of July, 1976;

(b) whether in the meeting the question of 18 textile mills which are closed was also discussed and if so, the text in full;

(c) whether any recommendation was made to the Ministry in the matter and if so, the main features thereof; and

(d) the steps taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) The meeting of the National Industrial Committee on Textiles (Private Sector) which is a Bipartite Body was held on June 17, 1976.

(b) and (c). An extract of the full text of the conclusions of the meeting relating to the item is placed on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-11239/76].

(d) Concerned authorities have been apprised of the conclusions of this meeting for initiating appropriate action as deemed fit and necessary by them on the merit of each case.

Conference on the Law of the Sea

1649. SHRI P. M. MEHTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had exchange of views with the American delegation regarding the Conference on the Law of the Sea to be held in New York in August, 1976;

(b) if so, the gist thereof;

(c) whether any mutual agreement was reached;

(d) which subjects are expected to be discussed in the conference; and

(e) how many countries are likely to participate in the Conference?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) A delegation from the United States visited New Delhi on 12 and 13 July, 1976 and had discussions with the Indian delegation to the Law of the Sea Conference.

(b) and (c). As the discussions were of an informal and confidential nature, it would not be appropriate to disclose their contents. No agreement was sought or reached.

(d) Some of the key issues before the Conference relate to the extent and status of the economic zone and continental shelf; the structure and role of the International Seabed Authority; exploration and exploitation in the international seabed area; and the conduct of scientific research at sea and procedure for pacific settlement of disputes.

(e) 156 delegations are attending the Conference.

Treaty on the Law of the Sea

1650. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA:
SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(b) the salient features of the negotiating text emerging from New York session on drafting a treaty on the Law of the Sea regarding exploiting the wealth of the Sea; and

(b) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) The salient features of the revised Single Negotiating Text (SNT) are:

(i) Recognition of a 12-mile territorial sea, a 200 nautical mile economic zone and the continental shelf extending to the outer edge of the continental margin or to 200 miles, whichever is farther from the coast.

(ii) Consent of the coastal State would be required for scientific research to be conducted within its economic zone or in its continental shelf.

(iii) A system of compulsory settlement of disputes and the creation of a separate tribunal to deal with disputes concerning exploration and exploitation of the international seabed area.

(iv) Production from the International Seabed Area to be presently limited for a period of 20 years. As the International Seabed Authority in the initial stages may have to depend on others to help develop the resources of the deep seabed area, contracts may be awarded to States Parties, or other entities

sponsored by them in accordance with a formal written plan of work approved by the Authority.

(b) With respect to the limits of of territorial sea, exclusive economic zone, the continental shelf and the rights to be enjoyed by the coastal State therein, the Indian interests have been safeguarded in the provisions of the revised SNT. However, the attempt to deny the status of archipelago to Lakshadweep, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, while granting the same status to archipelagic States such as Indonesia, Mauritius and Fiji is a cause for concern and India will exert its utmost effort to gain recognition of its stand.

As to the question of settlement of disputes, India considers it inappropriate and undesirable to subject any dispute concerning the maritime zones which are under the sovereign rights and exclusive jurisdiction of the coastal State, to any third party against the wishes of the coastal State.

मध्य प्रदेश में कोयला खानों की और भविष्य निधि की बकाया राशि

1651. श्री गणाचरण दीक्षित : क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष 1972-73, 1973-74 और 1974-75 के लिए वर्ष वार, मध्य प्रदेश में सभी कोयला खानों की और भविष्य निधि की कितनी राशि बकाया है और उन खानों के नाम क्या हैं तथा बकाया राशि को वसुल करने के लिए क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है;

(ख) क्या मध्य प्रदेश में कुछ कोयला खानें बन्द कर दी गई हैं जिस से अनेक मजदूर बेरोजगार हो गए हैं और क्या कुछ खानों में छटनी भी की गई है; और

(ग) क्या छंटनी-किए गए कर्मचारियों को भविष्य निधि का राशि का भुगतान नहीं किया गया है और यदि हां, तो इस राशि का भुगतान कब तक कर दिया जायेगा ?

श्रम मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री बालगोविन्द वर्मा) : (क): सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन की मेज पर रख दी जाएगी।

(ख) केवल प्योर चिरीमरी कोलियरी नाम की एक खान 1-12-1975 से बन्द की गई है। किसी भी कामगार का रोजगार से नहीं निकाला गया या छंटनी की गई। कोयला खान में नियोजित करीब 100 श्रमिकों का उस क्षेत्र की पास की कोयला खानों में पुनर्वासन किया गया।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Minimum Wages for Agricultural Labourers

1652. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States which have passed legislation fixing minimum wages for agricultural labourers and the salient features of the enactments; and

(b) the names of States which have failed to implement them so far and the action taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) and (b). The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 constitutes the legislation providing for fixation/revision of minimum wages by the appropriate Government in respect of employments contained in the Schedule to the Act. The employment in Agriculture is included in Part II of this Schedule and wages have been fixed/revised under the Act for agricultural labourers in all the States/Union Territories barring a few. A statement

showing the latest position in various States/Union Territories in regard to minimum wages of agricultural labourers notified under the Minimum Wages Act is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-11240/76].

Expenditure on National Highways

1653. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money spent on the various National Highways for (i) new construction, and (ii) maintenance, during the past three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the amount is proposed to be increased for the current financial year and the succeeding years, for the National Highways serving the hilly areas; and

(c) if so, a brief outline thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Two statements giving the requisite information are laid on the Table of the Sabha. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-11241/76.]

(b) and (c) The provision allocated for 1976-77 for development of National Highways in hilly areas is more than the expenditure in each of the last three years which will be clear from the fact that the allocation for 1976-77 is Rs 10 51 crores as against expenditure of Rs. 2 91 crores, 2.80 crores and 5.10 crores (provisional) during 1973-74, 1974-75 and 1975-76 respectively. As regards repair of roads, the allocation shall depend on the extent of repairs required to be carried out depending upon a number of factors, e.g., existing condition, wear and tear due to traffic use, damages due to floods, etc.

As for allocation for subsequent years, it shall depend on position of resources which may be available during each year.

Revision of Formula for Calculation of Work Load and Income

1654. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the formula for the calculation of Workload and Income, for the post offices has been revised recently by taking into account the new items of work taken up by the Post Offices; and

(b) if so, a brief outline of the formula prior to the revision and after the revision?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA): (a) and (b). Recommendations of the Departmental Committee appointed to examine the cost and income formula for opening of Extra-Departmental Post Offices, and work-load for upgradation of Extra-Departmental Post Offices into Departmental Offices are under consideration.

Indians Injured during Recent Chinese Earthquake

1655. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian families evacuated from Peking during the recent Chinese earthquake;

(b) whether any one of the personnel in the Indian Embassy was injured during the earthquake; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) A total of 18 families consisting

of 34 adults and all children of the personnel attached to our Embassy in Peking were evacuated to Canton. Three adults and two children were evacuated to Hong Kong. Seventeen adults, including our Ambassador, stayed on in Peking.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

मध्य प्रदेश में प्रबन्ध में कर्मचारियों की भागीदारी योजना आरम्भ करना

1656. **श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :** क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मध्य प्रदेश में किन-किन कपड़ा तथा अन्य उद्योगों में प्रबन्ध में कर्मचारियों की भागीदारी योजना आरम्भ की गई है और प्रत्येक राज्य में यह भागीदारी प्रणाली कब से आरम्भ की गई है; और

(ख) किन-किन क्षेत्रों में कर्मचारियों को प्रबन्ध में भाग लेने की अनुमति दी गई है और कर्मचारियों का किस-किस प्रकार के लाभ और हानि में भी हिस्सा रहेगा ?

श्रम मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री बाल-गोविन्द वर्मा) : (क) और (ख). सूचना मध्य प्रदेश सरकार से एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन की मेज पर रख दी जायगी ।

'भास्कर' और 'जनबोध' के मालिकों द्वारा जमा कराई गई और उनकी और बकाया की राशि भविष्य निधि

1657. **श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :** क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) ग्वालियर, झांसी, मोरार, उज्जैन से प्रकाशित होने वाले दैनिक 'भास्कर' और सहडोल से प्रकाशित होने वाले 'जनबोध' के मालिकों द्वारा वर्ष 1973 से मार्च, 1976 तक, वर्षवार, भविष्य निधि की कितनी धनराशि जमा कराई गई है और कितनी धनराशि बकाया है, और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसे ठीक समय पर जमा न कराने के लिए सरकार ने उनके विरुद्ध अब तक क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

श्रम मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री बाल-गोविन्द वर्मा) : (क) और (ख). भविष्य निधि प्राधिकारियों ने निम्न प्रकार सूचित किया है :—

"डेली भास्कर" भोपाल को उज्जैन और झांसी स्थित उसकी शाखाओं के साथ 1-3-1965 से कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि और विविध उपबन्ध अधिनियम, 1952 लागू किया गया था जिसमें इसकी शाखाओं को एक एक के रूप में माना गया था । मैंने अधिनियम की धारा 14 के अन्तर्गत गैर-अनुपालन के लिए एक अभियोजन दायर किया था। तथापि प्रतिष्ठान के अधिनियम की प्रयोज्यता को चुनौती दी । इस समय भविष्य निधि प्राधिकारियों की एक अपील उच्च न्यायालय, जबलपुर के समक्ष लम्बित है । चूंकि यह मामला न्यायाधीन है, इसलिए 1973-76 के वर्षों के दौरान भविष्य निधि की बकाया राशियों को जमा करने या जमा न करने का प्रश्न नहीं उठता । 'जेन-बोध' सहडोल को केवल 1-7-1976 से अधिनियम, के अन्तर्गत लाया गया है । 1973 से मार्च, 1976 के दौरान शेष राशियों/वसूलियों के ब्यौरों का प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

मध्य प्रदेश के लिए टेलीफोन डायरेक्टरी का हिन्दी प्रकाशन निकालना

1658. **श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या मध्य प्रदेश में टेलीफोन डायरेक्टरी का हिन्दी प्रकाशन बन्द कई

वर्षों से नहीं निकाला जा रहा है और यदि हां, तो तत्सम्बन्धी तथ्य क्या है;

(ख) वर्ष 1973 से अब तक डायरेक्टरी और अनुपूरक डायरेक्टरी के अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में कितने कितने अंक निकाले गये हैं और हिन्दी तथा अंग्रेजी के प्रकाशनों के बीच कितना अन्तर होता है;

(ग) क्या मध्य प्रदेश एक हिन्दी भाषी राज्य है और यदि हां, तो हिन्दी डायरेक्टरी के प्रकाशन में विलम्ब होने के क्या कारण हैं; और

(घ) क्या उपभोक्ताओं द्वारा डायरेक्टरी के हिन्दी अंक के बारे में अनेक शिकायतें की गई हैं और यदि हां, तो इस बारे में क्या उपचारी उपाय किए गए हैं ?

संचार मंत्री (श्री शंकर दयाल शर्मा) (क) मध्य मध्यप्रदेश सर्किल की टेलीफ़ोन डाइरेक्टरी का पिछला हिन्दी संस्करण जनवरी, 1971 में प्रकाशित हुआ था ;

(ख) 1973 से मध्य प्रदेश सर्किल के लिए अंग्रेजी की एक मुख्य डाइरेक्टरी और छह पूरक डाइरेक्टरियां प्रकाशित हुई थी । जनवरी 1971 के बाद हिन्दी की कोई भी डाइरेक्टरी या उसकी पूरक डाइरेक्टरी नहीं प्रकाशित हुई है ;

(ग) मुद्रकों और विज्ञापन एजेंटों की नियुक्ति में कुछ अपरिहार्य कठिनाइयों के कारण हिन्दी टेलीफ़ोन डाइरेक्टरी के प्रकाशन मे विलंब हुआ है ;

(घ) कोई शिकायत नहीं प्राप्त हुई है । फिर भी, मंडल स्तर पर हिन्दी डाइरेक्टरियां छपवाने के लिए प्रयास किये जा रहे हैं ।

राज्य स्तरों पर चिकित्सा परिषदों की स्थापना करने की योजना

1659. **श्री भागीरथ भंवर :** क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या मध्य प्रदेश और अन्य राज्यों ने राज्य स्तर पर चिकित्सा परिषदें स्थापित करने की योजना प्रस्तुत की है ; यदि हां, तो तत्सम्बन्धी रूपरेखा क्या है ; और

(ख) केन्द्रीय स्तर पर चिकित्सा सुविधाओं पर कौन कौन सी संस्थाएं नियन्त्रण कर रही हैं ?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री ए० के० एम० इसहाक) : (क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) भारत सरकार का स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन मंत्रालय (स्वास्थ्य विभाग) तथा भारतीय चिकित्सा परिषद, चिकित्सा शिक्षा सम्बन्धी सुविधाओं पर नियंत्रण रख रहे है ।

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Employees in Shipping Corporation of India

1660. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total strength of employees in the Shipping Corporation of India and how many among them are from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) whether any shortfall has been noticed in the representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes employees in their reserved quota; and

(c) if so, the steps Government have taken to fill up these seats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M TRIVEDI): (a) There is provision for reservation for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates in the shore staff employed by the Shipping Corporation of India Out of the 1,687 such employees, 135 belong to the Scheduled Caste and 10 to the Scheduled Tribes.

(b) and (c). There is a shortfall in both the categories. The Shipping Corporation of India has been instructed to take effective steps to make up the shortfall.

Unemployed S C & S T Engineers and Doctors

1661 SHRI RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of engineers, technicians, doctors and other trained graduates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who were unemployed as on December, 1975 according to the live registers of employment exchanges; and

(b) the number of such persons who have been provided jobs?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) and (b) Available information is given in the statement laid on the Table of the House [*Placed in Library. See* No LT-11242/76]

Construction of Roads in Kerala Tribal Areas

1662. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial assistance has been sought of the Union Government by the Kerala State Government for constructing roads in tribal areas and other strategically important places; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and Government's response thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). Proposals for the construction of roads and other programmes have been received for two tribal areas of the tribal sub-Plan areas of Kerala, viz. (i) Attapaddy, and (ii) North and South Wynad The proposals in respect of the remaining tribal sub-plan area are still awaited from the State Government. The State Government have sought Central assistance of Rs 145 lakhs for Attapady and Rs 175 lakhs for North and South Wynad tribal areas for the roads programme The total outlay for the tribal sub-plan of Kerala has not yet been finalised as the complete revised tribal sub-plan has yet to be sent by the State Government.

Development Cess for Development of Minerals and Mineral-Bearing Areas

1663 DR LAXMINARAIN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the recommendations made in May, 1973 by the Committee on Development Cess; and

(b) whether Government are of the opinion that a development cess is imperative for the development of minerals and mineral bearing areas?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) and (b). The recommendations of the "Committee on the Development Cess on Minerals" are still under consideration of Government.

Incidence of Asthma and other Allergies due to Neem

1664. SHRI M. S. PURTY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report that the neem tree whose leaves serve as a disinfectant and have tremendous medicinal value is also responsible for the high incidence of asthma and other respiratory allergies in the Capital (New Delhi); and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K M. ISHAQUE): (a) Yes.

(b) V. P. C I, which conducts research on chest diseases had sometime back made certain investigations in this regard and it was observed that neem did not cause asthma and other respiratory allergies except in rare cases

National Highway No 8

1665. SHRI FATEHSINGHRAO GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highway No. 8 from Ahmedabad to Vasad is proposed to be converted into four-lanes;

(b) if so, when the work on conversion of the same is likely to be completed; and

(c) the steps taken to provide necessary funds in the plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No Sir; not in the 5th Five Year Plan period.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Coastal Highways

1666. SHRI FATEHSINGHRAO GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) how many works connected with the Coastal Highways in Gujarat are in progress;

(b) when these will be completed;

(c) number of works that still remain to be undertaken; and

(d) when these are proposed to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d). Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to the Coastal Highways in Gujarat. These are State roads and 36 works are in progress at present The State Government expect to complete these works as early as possible on the basis of the availability of resources. Forty-three works still remain to be undertaken The State Government expect to consider them in the Sixth Five Year Plan according to availability of resources

Motorising Man-Drawn Rickshaws

1667. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister and the Health Ministry had asked for motorising the man-drawn rickshaws and excise duty exemption to the same has been granted in the last Union budget; and

(b) if so, to what extent and in which States, motorised rickshaws have come on the roads?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) and (b). According to the information made available by the Department of Revenue and Banking, following representations received by them from the interests concerned powered cycle rickshaws falling under tariff item No. 34 —Motor vehicles, have been exempted, as part of 1976 Budget, from the whole of the duty leviable thereon. They have no information about the extent to which motorised rickshaws have come on the roads following this exemption.

Non-Deposit of P.F. by Bihar Khadi Gramodyog Sangh

1668. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Patna High Court through its decision dated 9th February, 1976, has declared Bihar Khadi Gramodyog Sangh an industry under the Industrial Disputes Act but even then provident fund of the employees amounting to about Rs. 85 lakhs is not being deposited; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) and (b). The Provident Fund Authorities have reported as follows:—

The Patna High Court had held the Bihar Khadi Gramodyog Sangh as an industry under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The management's appeal against this judgement is pending before the Supreme Court. The Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 applied to the establishment and the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner after due process determined the dues realisable from the establishment. The management have filed a writ petition against this assessment in the Patna High Court and the High Court has granted a stay in the matter pending the disposal of the management's writ petition. The writ petition is being contested.

Connecting Baroda with Delhi, Bombay, Poona and Rajkot by S.T.D.

1669. SHRI FATEHSINGHHRAO GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which Baroda will be connected with Delhi, Bombay, Poona and Rajkot by S.T.D.; and

(b) the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA): (a) The programme for provision of S.T.D. for Baroda is as follows:

(i) Baroda-Bombay	1977-78
(ii) Baroda-Poona	1977-78
(iii) Baroda-Rajkot	1976-77
(iv) Baroda-Delh	1978-79

(b) The above S.T.D. Services are proposed to be provided via the trunk Automatic Exchange at Ahmedabad which is now under installation. The Ahmedabad TAX is expected to be commissioned in March 77 providing STD from Baroda initially to Rajkot. S.T.D. connection between Baroda and Bombay as well as Baroda and Poona will be feasible in 1977-78 on completion of 12 MHZ Co-axial system between Ahmedabad and Bombay. Linking Baroda to Delhi by STD will be effected after adequate expansion of the TAXs at Ahmedabad, Bombay and Delhi is expected in 1978-79.

Expansion of Baroda Telephones

1670. SHRI FATEHSINGHRAO GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning on an expansion programme of Baroda Telephones system:

(b) whether Government are aware of the unsatisfactory working of the Cross Bar Exchange of Baroda; and

(c) if so, the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKAR DAYAL SHARMA): (a) The existing Baroda Telephones System has a capacity of 8600 lines. This has been expanded by 1000 lines recently on 15th August, 1976. A further expansion of 1400 lines to the existing exchanges and installation of two new exchanges of 3000 and 400 lines respectively have been planned.

(b) and (c). Baroda Crossbar Exchange has functioning normally since its commissioning. However, there was slight dial tone delay in the month of March and April, 1976 when about 400 new connections were given and another 400 working connections from Kothi MAX-I exchange were transferred to this exchange. Further loading was stopped and other corrective measures were taken. There is no dial tone delay now and the exchange is functioning satisfactorily.

The service of Baroda Telephone System as a whole suffered during the cyclones in June 1976 and heavy floods in July 1976. A number of cables and overhead alignments were affected. The rehabilitation efforts are in progress and the situation is fast nearing normalcy.

खनिज तथा धातु व्यापार निगम द्वारा इस्पात का आयात करने का प्रभाव

1671. डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय : क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या खनिज तथा धातु व्यापार निगम ने इस्पात का आयात अंधाधुंध किया है ;

(ख) क्या इसी कारण दुर्गापुर इस्पात कारखाने में इस्पात की चादरों और प्लेटों का भारी जमाव हो गया है ;

(ग) दुर्गापुर कारखाने में ऐसे स्टाक का कितना जमाव है ; और

(घ) क्या आयात और देशी निर्माण में तालमेल बिठाने हेतु सरकार को कोई तंत्र है ?

इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री सुखदेव प्रसाद) : (क) इस समय बेदाग इस्पात, चादरों, प्लेटों तथा स्ट्रिप्स का आयात भारतीय खनिज तथा धातु व्यापार निगम लि० की मार्फ़त किया जाता है । इन मदों का आयात सरकार की नीति के अनुसार किया जाता है ।

(ख) और (ग). भारतीय खनिज तथा धातु व्यापार निगम द्वारा इस्पात की जिन मदों का आयात किया जा रहा है उनका उत्पादन दुर्गापुर इस्पात कारखाने में नहीं होता है । इसलिए उस कारखाने में भारतीय खनिज तथा धातु व्यापार निगम द्वारा आयात की जा रही इस्पात की मदों के आयात के फ़लस्वरूप स्टाक जमा होने का प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता ।

(घ) आयात नीति निर्धारित करते समय घरेलू उत्पादन का पूरा ध्यान रखा जाता है और इसे अन्तिम रूप देने से पहले सरकार के विभिन्न विभागों, उत्पादकों तथा उपभोक्ताओं को भी विचार-विनिमय में शामिल किया जाता है ।

लक्षद्वीप द्वीपसमूह और मुख्य भूमि के बीच नौवहन सुविधायें

1672. श्री भागीरथ झंवर : क्या नौवहन और परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या लक्षद्वीप द्वीपसमूह और मुख्य भूमि के बीच नौवहन की पर्याप्त सुविधाएं उपलब्ध हैं ;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो इस दिशा में क्या कार्यवाही करने का प्रस्ताव है ; और

(ग) इस समय लक्षद्वीप द्वीप समूह से मुख्य भूमि तक आने तथा वापस जाने में कितना समय लगता है और क्या इस यात्रा में लगने वाले समय को कम करने सम्बंधी प्रस्ताव पर विचार किया जा रहा है ?

नौवहन और परिवहन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एच० एम० त्रिवेदी) :

(क) जी, हां ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

(ग) लक्षद्वीप द्वीप समूह से कोचीन और वापसी की पूरी समुद्री यात्रा में 6 से आठ दिन के बीच का समय लगता है जो कि जाने वाले पत्तनों पर निर्भर करता है और जिसमें कोचीन में जहाजों का लगभग तीन दिन रुकना शामिल है । समुद्री यात्रा के समय को कम करने की कोई गुंजाइश नहीं है ।

Request of S C I to acquire General Cargo Vessels from Japanese Shipyard

1673 SHRI M S PURTY Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) whether Shipping Corporation of India has requested Government to acquire at least six general cargo vessels from a major Japanese shipyard,

(b) whether prior to this some contracts had earlier been made with the Japanese shipyards, and

(c) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H M TRIVEDI) (a) Government have approved that six multi-purpose general cargo vessels may be acquired from Mitsubishi Heavy Industry, Japan. Out of these, four vessels will be acquired by the Shipping Corporation of India Ltd

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) During the current decade the Shipping Corporation of India Ltd., has acquired six tankers and one bulk carrier from Japan The price of all the six tankers was paid by delivery, with the help of World Bank loan for four tankers and commercial foreign exchange loans for the remaining two The bulk carrier was acquired with shipyard credit covering 80 per cent of the price repayable in 16 half-yearly instalments at 7 75 per cent per annum

Exports by Indian Telephone Industries

1674 SHRI RAJDEO SINGH Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Indian Telephone Industries has plans to enter the export market in a big way competing on the basis of quality, price and performance of equipment,

(b) whether previously ITI has exported stronger Exchange equipment and telephones to more than forty countries, and

(c) if so, the reputation of the already exported machines and material in the importing countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) The machines and material exported are having good reputation

Harijans and Adivasis freed from Indebtedness

1675 SHRI RAM PRAKASH Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the number of the adivasis, harijans and other downtrodden people who have been freed from the clutches of money-lenders and their mortgaged property restored to them, State-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): Inormation is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as received.

Conference of Afro-Asian Legal Consultative Committee

1676. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference of Afro-Asian Legal Consultative Committee was held in Kuala Lumpur in July, 1976; and

(b) if so, whether law of the sea figured in the Conference?

THE DEPUTY MIINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

Electronic Exchanges for Telex Traffic in Bombay and Delhi

*1677. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA. Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether electronic exchanges are to be installed to handle telex traffic in Bombay and Delhi by the Overseas Communication Service;

(b) if so, whether any contract has been signed with any foreign firm in this regard; and

(c) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A contract has already been signed with M/s. Hasler of Switzerland for supply of necessary equipment for the Bombay Centre. Its estimated cost is 8.0 million Swiss Francs (Rs. 2.58 crores approx.) and it is being financed under the 3rd Swiss credit. The net estimated cost of the project is Rs. 4.35 crores. The Telex Exchange will have an initial capacity for termination of 450 international telex trunks, with provision for extension to 2000 trunks by additional equipment in course of time.

A project report for installation of an electronic telex exchange at the New Delhi Centre, with substantial indigenous content, has also been drawn up and is likely to be approved shortly; its estimated cost is Rs. 4.27 crores.

Enforcement of Minimum wages for Farm Labour

1678. SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state-

(a) whether Central Government have given a directive to the Chief Ministers to enforce the minimum wages for farm labour and to give them protection; and

(b) if so, how far it is being implemented, State-wise ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) and (b): The need for effective and speedy implementation of the rates of minimum wages in respect of agricultural labour has been brought to the notice of the State Governments; the need for ensuring vigilance to see that the interests of agricultural labour are fully protected has also been impressed on them.

Various State Governments are taking action to strengthen the inspection machinery and to increase the number of claims authorities under the Minimum Wages Act so as to ensure effective implementation.

Talks with Bangladesh on Border Incidents

1679. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether situation on the border and border incidents were reviewed in the talks held by the Indian Delegation in Dacca in June, 1976; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While repudiating categorically baseless allegations regarding India's involvement in border incidents, the Indian Delegation reiterated India's desire for a peaceful border and rejected as regrettable attempts to make India a scapegoat for the internal problems of Bangladesh. The Indian Delegation re-affirmed that India was vitally interested in the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Bangladesh. India desired a strong and prosperous Bangladesh. This was in India's own interest and consistent with India's policy of working for peace and cooperation in the sub-continent.

भागलपुर में सीधी टेलीफोन व्यवस्था (एस० टी० डी०) आरम्भ करना

1680. **श्री ज्ञानेश्वर प्रसाद यादव** : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बिहार में भागलपुर के निवासियों को टेलीफोन पर एक शहर से दूसरी जगह टेलीफोन करने में काफी समय लगता है एवं दिक्कत का सामना करना पड़ता है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो भागलपुर से सीधी टेलीफोन सेवा कब से आरम्भ की जा रही है?

संचार मंत्री (डा०शंकर दयाल शर्मा) : (क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) छठी योजना अवधि के प्रारम्भ में भागलपुर में सीधी डायलिंग प्रणाली चालू करने की योजना है, बशर्ते कि टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज के लिये जमीन समय पर उपलब्ध हो जाए ।

National Highways in Gujarat

1681. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any plans to increase the mileage of National Highways in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to new additions to the existing National Highway System in Gujarat during the Fifth Five Year Plan. Owing to financial constraints, the Government of India are unable to consider any proposal for inclusion of any road in the National Highway System at present.

Supply of Malaria Tablets by UNICEF

1682 SHRI P. GANGADEB: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state.

(a) whether UNICEF has procured any anti-malaria tablets for India during the current year;

(b) if so, the total number of such tablets supplied to India; and

(c) whether the total Consignment would meet the requirements of India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE): (a) and (b) The U.N.I.

C.E.F. has offered to supply 117 million Chloroquin tablets for children patients of malaria in the country. Of these 32.6 million tablets have been received so far.

(c) No. The U.N.I.C.E.F. gift will supplement the procurement of anti-malaria tablets being made by the Government of India under the National Malaria Eradication Programme.

Fresh Gold Deposits near Kolar Gold Fields

1683. SHRI P. GANGADEB: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether fresh gold deposits have been found near Kolar Gold Fields;

(b) whether these deposits would mean a fresh lease of life for Kolar Gold Fields; and

(c) whether the new gold deposits were discovered the extensive survey conducted for three years by the Geological Survey of India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) to (c). Surveys conducted by Geological Survey of India in collaboration with BGML during the last three years have revealed gold mineralisation in Motaggert's vertical shaft area of west part of Mysore mine in Kolar Gold Field; extension areas of East Batrayaswamy and Manigatta in Karnataka and in Mallappakonda and Bisanattam towards the sothern extension of K.G.F. in Andhra Pradesh. The question of additional lease of life to Kolar Gold Field can only be determined after the completion of the programme of exploration in depth.

Rising Calcutta Port Traffic

1684. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the total sea-borne traffic through the Calcutta Port rose to 76,99,000 tonnes in 1975-76 against 75,36,000 tonnes in previous years whereas the inland vessel wharves traffic during the year came down to 3,27,000 tonnes against 3,38,000 tonnes in previous years;

(b) whether this increase can be attributed to the handling of Cargo to a higher degree of descipline or to close vigil by the task force or something else like flushing of Bhagirathi by water from Farakka Barrage; and

(c) the precise cause thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) Although, consequent on the proclamation of emergency, productivity has improved at the port the increase in tonnage was mainly due to POL traffic due to increased requirement of crude oil by Haldia Refinery.

कृत्रिम गर्भाधान

1685. **श्री लालजी भाई** : क्या **स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि पिछले तीन वर्षों में भारत में किन-किन राज्यों में कितनी-कितनी महिलाओं ने कृत्रिम गर्भाधान कराया है ?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री ए० के० एम० इसहाक): यह सूचना तत्काल उपलब्ध नहीं है। देश के जिन अस्पतालों में इन सेवाओं की व्यवस्था है, उनसे यह सूचना प्राप्त होते ही सभापटल पर रख दी जायेगी।

Indo-Bangladesh Relations

1686. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's relations with Bangladesh have improved during the last three months; and

(b) the outstanding issues between the two countries which have been mutually settled so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) India has taken various intiatives to improve relations with Bangladesh but, unfortunately, the response has not been satisfactory.

(b) Among the major outstanding issue, settled by agreement between India and Bangladesh is the one concerning the demarcation of the land boundary, signed by the Prime Ministers of the two countries on 16th May 1974.

Surplus Labour at Calcutta Port

1687. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Calcutta Dock Labour Board has taken steps to bring down surplus labour at Calcutta port;

(b) if so, the outlines thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H M. TRIVEDI): (a) and (b). With a view to making Calcutta Port operationally efficient and economically viable, the Calcutta Dock Labour Board, which is a tripartite body, resolved unanimously at a meeting held on 29-7-1976 that it had become absolutely necessary to reorganize the work-force of the Board in accordance with the present trends of traffic to be handled. The Chairman of the Board was authorised to make an assessment to detremine the number of registered workers required in each category and take action to retire the surplus after paying them suitable compensation.

(c) Government is awaiting a concrete proposal following this meeting.

Decline in Birth Rate to Planned Level

1688. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the birth rate is expected to decline to the planned level by the end of the Sixth Plan; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A.K.M. ISHAQUE): (a) Yes.

(b) During the year 1975-76, the birth-rate is estimated to have come down to about 35 per thousand population from 41 in 1961. It is expected that with the realisation of the targets fixed for the remaining period of the Fifth Plan, the birth-rate will decline to 30.7 by the end of fifth plan. The programme envisages a further reduction in birth-rate to the level of 25 per 1000 population by the end of sixth plan.

Realisation of Loans from Shipping Companies

1689. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU: SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the loans to the tune of Rupees twenty lakhs are yet to be realised from five leading shipping companies;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any measures to realise this amount, and

(d) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI): (a) Loans given by the shipping Development Fund Committee to shipping companies are repayable by the latter

in instalments, in accordance with the schedule of repayment determined by the Committee. There is no amount of loan which has actually become recoverable but has not been recovered.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Opening of Fair Price Shop in Industrial Establishments

1690. SHRI B. S BHAURA:
SHRI K. M. 'MADHUKAR':

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on the question of setting up of fair price shops in the industrial establishment for the benefit of workers; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA). (a) and (b) In terms of the Scheme drawn up some time ago, the State Governments and the Employing Ministeries are being persuaded from time to time to set up Fair Price Shops/Consumer Cooperative Stores in all establishments employing 300 or more workers. That the progress so far has not been such as to give us entire satisfaction was due largely to the lack of assurance of continued supplies of foodgrains etc to such shops/stores The matter was reviewed recently in the light of the improved availability position at an Inter-Ministerial meeting held on August 10, 1976 and a workable scheme for ensuring steady supplies of foodgrains etc to such shops/stores is being drawn up in consultation with the authorities concerned

Cadre-Training Camps for Agricultural Labour

1691. SHRI N E. HORO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to hold cadre-traimng camps of activists of the agricultural labour organisations in different States; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) The National Labour Institute, New Delhi, which is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Labour, is organising training camps for helping the organisers of rural labour in different States.

(b) The broad outlines of these programmes are:—

(i) to impart knowledge of the various provisions of State & Central laws and regulations conferring certain benefits and facilities to rural labour; and

(ii) to help organisers with leadership skills development so that they can organise the rural labour more effectively. It may also be mentioned that the participants for the rural labour camps are selected through the machinery of the State Labour Departments who in their turn consult the various rural labour organisations.

Free Sterilization and Vasectomy Operations in Delhi

1692 SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: Will the Mmister of HEALTH and FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state·

(a) whether all Government and private Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Dispensaries and Clinics in Delhi are performing sterilization and vasectomy operations free of charge;

(b) if so, the names thereof;

(c) whether the Government have issued or propose to issue instructions to all the above to carry out the programme of the Government for the same; and

(d) if so, the outlines thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE): (a) All Government Hospitals a number of voluntary hospitals and nursing homes are performing sterilization operations free of charge. Only those Dispensaries and Clinics are performing sterilization operations where special arrangements have been made.

(b) Statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-11243/76.]

(c) The private hospitals and Nursing Homes have volunteered to contribute to this National Programme.

(d) Question does not arise.

पटना में टेलीफोन कनेक्शन के लिये लम्बित आवेदन-पत्र

1693. श्री राजावतार शास्त्री : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पटना में नये टेलीफोन कनेक्शन के लिये उपभोक्ताओं के आवेदन पत्र लम्बित हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्सम्बन्धी संख्या क्या है;

(ग) क्या बहुत से विधायकों के आवेदन पत्र भी लम्बित है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्सम्बन्धी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ङ) सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है ?

संचार मंत्री (डा० शंकर दयाल शर्मा) : (क) और (ख) जी हां। पटना में नए टेलीफोन कनेक्शनों के लिये प्रतीक्षा सूची में 244 नाम दर्ज हैं :—

ओ० वाई० टी० : कोई नहीं

विशेष : 6

सामान्य : 238

(ग) जी नहीं।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ङ) पाटलिपुत्र में 800 लाइनों का एक नया एक्सचेंज स्थापित करने का काम चल रहा है। आशा है कि 1976 के अन्त तक यह एक्सचेंज चालू हो जाएगा। इस अतिरिक्त क्षमता से वर्तमान प्रतीक्षा की सूची की सारी मांगें पूरी हो जाएंगी और भविष्य की कुछ मांगें भी पूरी की जा सकेंगी।

State Roads of Inter-State or Economic Importance

1694. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: SHRI C. JANARDHANAN:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government had called for the proposal from the State of Kerala regarding the scheme "State Roads of Inter-State, or Economic Importance" for inclusion in the Fifth Plan;

(b) if so, whether the State Government sent their proposals to Central Government; and

(c) Central Government's opinion thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (*SHRI DALBIR SINGH*): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Owing to financial constraints, the available funds are not adequate even for 'on going' works, and as such the Government of India have not been able to approve loan assistance for any new works under the scheme of "State Roads of Inter-State or Economic Importance" in the Fifth Plan so far.

Revision of Bonus Formula

1695. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government have evolved a revised formula on workers' bonus;

(b) if so, the outlines thereof, and

(c) how far the workers have responded to it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) to (c). Certain changes in the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 were made by the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Ordinance, promulgated on the 25th September, 1975, which was later replaced by the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Act, 1976. No further changes have been made in the formula

New Telephone Lines for Gujarat

1696. SHRI P. M MEHTA Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state.

(a) whether 750,000 more telephone lines are to be provided by the end of the Fifth Plan;

(b) if so, how many new telephone lines will be provided in Gujarat by the end of the said Plan,

(c) whether Gujarat State has not been provided any new lines since the beginning of the Fifth Plan; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and number of new lines which are likely to be provided in future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). It is proposed to expand the telephone exchanges in Gujarat by a total of 80,000 lines, out of which 11,130 and 14,676 lines were added during 1974-75 and 1975-76 respectively.

राजदूतों के खाली पद

1697. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह :** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उन देशों के नाम क्या हैं जहां भारतीय दूतावासों में हमारे राजदूतों के पद खाली हैं, और

(ख) इसका मुख्य कारण क्या है और राजदूतों की उन देशों में नियुक्ति कब तक की जायेगी ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री विपिन पाल दास) : (क) गुयाना, ईरान, पानामा, कतार, वेनेजुएला, मालागासी, नीदरलैंड, कोरियाई लोकतांत्रिक जन गणराज्य और स्वीडन ।

(ख) ये रिक्तियां सामान्य परिवर्तन की सामान्य प्रक्रिया के कारण हुई थीं । गुयाना, ईरान, वेनेजुएला, कतार और पानामा के लिए मिशन-प्रमुखों का चयन हो चुका है और वे शीघ्र ही अपने अपने पद का कार्यभार ग्रहण कर लेंगे । शेष रिक्त पदों पर चयन के बारे में विचार हो रहा है और इस बारे में शीघ्र ही फैसला कर लिया जाएगा ।

चीन में भारत के लिये राजदूत

1698. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह :** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या चीन में भारत के नए राजदूत चेयरमैन माओत्से तुंग से मिले हैं; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो कब और कहां पर?

विदेश मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री विपिन पाल दास) : (क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

मारीशस में विश्व हिन्दी सम्मेलन

1699. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह :
क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भारत सरकार मारीशस में आयोजित हो रहे विश्व हिन्दी सम्मेलन के लिये कोई प्रतिनिधि मंडल भेजने के प्रस्ताव पर विचार कर रही है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस बारे में तथ्य क्या हैं ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री विपिन पाल दास) : (क) जी हां।

(ख) शिष्टमंडल के सदस्यों की एक सूची सभा पटल पर रख दी गई है [ग्रन्थालय में रखी गई । देखिये संख्या एल०टी० 11244/76]

Completion of Ratnagiri Harbour

1700. SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state·

(a) whether the harbour at Ratnagiri has been completed according to plan, if so, when;

(b) further improvements needed at the harbour to make it an all-weather harbour; and

(c) when these will be made and by whom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI): (a) to (c). The approved scheme for development of Ratnagiri Harbour with Central Loan Assistance has been completed in 1973. This being a Minor Port, further improvements, if any, will be taken up and executed by the State Government as part of the State Five Year Plan.

Silica and Alumini Content of Bauxite supply to Ratnagiri and Korba Aluminium Plants

1701. SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT· Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of silica and alumini in the bauxite to be supplied to the Ratnagiri Aluminium Plant and the Korba Aluminium Plant;

(b) which bauxite to be supplied to these plants is more abundant and which is superior;

(c) facilities in the matter of land, roads, harbour, water and electricity offered by Government of Maharashtra for the Project at Ratnagiri; and

(d) the reasons for delaying the Plant at Ratnagiri?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD):

(a)	Alumini	Silica
Ratnagiri	50·5%	3·6%
Korba	47%	4·5%

(b) It is not possible to draw a categorical inference about the superiority in quantity and quality of two bauxite sources, one of which is actually being exploited (Korba) and another of which has yet to be exploited (Ratnagiri).

(c) The State Government have promised to provide all these infrastructure facilities.

(d) Owing to financial constraints implementation of the Project has not yet been taken up.

Repairs of National Highways in Maharashtra during 1976-77

1702 SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) the National Highways in Maharashtra taken up for repairs, broadening or modernising during 1976-77,

(b) the time-limit for completing the work in each case, and

(c) amount of loan and subsidy given or proposed to be given to the State Government for the purpose for each of these Highways?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) (a) and (b) The State of Maharashtra has nine routes as National Highways These national highways which are existing roads are being maintained and excepting the National Highway No 13 the rest of them are being improved at an estimated cost of about Rs 47 00 crores to meet the demand of traffic of the near future The improvement works include widening to two lane with or without strengthening and construction of new bridges at Kalway Kasheli and Malegaon on National Highway No 3 across the river Panchganga near Kolhapur on National Highway No 4 and across the river Girna near Jalgaon on National Highway No 6 These improvement works are in various stages of progress and funds permitting of which there is shortage the improvement works are likely to be completed by the end of the Fifth Plan period

(c) As constitutionaly National Highways are a Central subject the entire expenditure involved in their development and maintenance is borne by the Central Government as a direct expenditure and as such the question of giving loan or subsidy does not arise For development improvement and modernisation of roads in Maharashtra in 1976-77 a sum of Rs. 700 lakhs has been allocated. As regards repairs a sum of Rs 78 51 lakhs has so far been allotted and further amount as found admissible in accordance with the prescribed norms shall be allotted during the remaining period of the current financial year

Ore Handling Targets of Belekeri Port

1703 SHRI B V NAIK Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) whether any targets have been prescribed for ore handling by the Belekeri port on the west coast in Karnataka State during the years 1976-77 and 1977-78,

(b) whether the existing facilities at the Port are being fully utilised, and

(c) if not, whether any improvements to the port's handling facilities are contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H M TRIVEDI) (a) to (c) Belekeri is a minor port under the control of Karnataka Govt The State Government have reported that the existing facilities are being augmented by mechanised barge loading facilities so as to handle the exports fixed for 1976-77 and 1977-78

Reproductive couples in the Country

1704 SHRI B V NAIK Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state

(a) the total number of reproductive couples in the country as on date as per latest available census reports,

(b) out of the above how many couples have been sterilised,

(c) the percentage of the balance number of couples programmed to be sterilised during the year 1976-77, and

(d) the year in which India will have zero population growth according to present programme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE): (a) Based on the ratio of married couples in the reproductive age-group per 1000 population as per 1971 Census, the number of couples in the reproductive age-group (age of wife 15—44 years) as on 30th June, 1976 is estimated at 104.7 million.

(b) The number of couples currently protected by sterilisation as of 30 June, 1976 is estimated at 15.0 million.

(c) An additional 4.3 million couples constituting 4.8 per cent of the balance are targetted to be sterilised during the year 1976-77.

(d) The objective spelt out of the present programme is to bring down the growth rate to 1.4 per cent by the end of the sixth Plan. Even if rapid fertility changes could be brought about so as to bring down the net reproduction rate to the replacement level by 1980—85, it is estimated that population will continue to grow till about the second half of the 21st Century.

Employment to Tribal Labour

1705. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bihar Government have been asked to employ directly tribal labour who are exploited by forest contractors:

(b) if so, the outlines thereof;

(c) whether in other parts of the country tribal labour is also exploited by contractors; and

(d) if so, whether Government have taken any step to urge upon those State Governments to employ directly tribal labour?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) to (d). According to the information made available by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the State Governments have been advised to specifically consider, in the preparation of Sub-Plans for tribal development, the problem of forest labourers. In cases where there are intermediaries and contractors between the forest department and the forest labourers steps should be taken to ensure a fair deal for the tribal labourers and the ultimate elimination of forest contractors and intermediaries. The Forest Departments are also to take suitable steps to ensure regular employment to the tribals.

Exploitation of Kudremukh Iron Ore

1706. SHRI P. R. SHENOY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the iron ore at Kudremukh is exploited by a separate Corporation formed for the purpose; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the Corporation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) A new company, named, Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd., has been formed under the Companies Act for the implementation of the Kudremukh Iron Ore Project.

(b) the salient features of the Company are.

(i) Registered Office :	Bangalore
(ii) Authorised Capital :	Rs. 150 crores, to be subscribed wholly by the President of India.
(iii) No. of Directors:	Minimum 5 Maximum 13
(iv) Appointment of Directors:	All Directors including the Chairman-Cum-Managing Director shall be appointed by the President of India.

Collecting Capitation fee by medical colleges in Karnataka

1707 SHRI P. R SHENOY:
SHRI M RAM GOPAL REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the scale of capitation fee and other fees collected by the private medical colleges in Karnataka during the current year;

(b) whether the capitation fee collected goes to the medical college concerned or to any other controlling institution; and

(c) whether the Government are aware that these colleges are actually collecting fee much more than what they state in public?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A K M ISHAQUE). (a) J J.M Medical College, Davangere·

Capitation fee Rs 10.000/- for Karnataka students on merit and Rs 35,000/- for others.

K.M C Medical College, Manipal·

Capitation fee Rs 10,000/- for Karnataka students on merit and others Rs. 44,000/ and foreigners $6.250 Tuition fee for all Rs. 1,570.

J N Medical College, Belgaum

Capitation fee Rs 10.000/- for Karnataka students on merit and Rs 35,000 for others Tuition fee Rs. 1,250 for all students.

M. R Medical College, Gulbarga·

Admissions have not yet been made.

(b) The fees collected from the students go to the medical college concerned

(c) No.

National Highways completed

1708. SHRI M. S. PURTY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the National Highways being constructed in the country on which work was started during the Fourth Plan;

(b) number of National Highways completed in Bihar during the Fourth Plan; and

(c) number of National Highways likely to be constructed in Bihar during the Fifth Plan period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH). (a) There are 55 National Highways in India Of these 44 existed on 1st April 1969 (i.e. the commencement of the Fourth Plan) and 11 new routes were added to the National Highways system in the Fourth Plan period. Development of National Highways is a continuous process depending upon deficiencies, traffic requirements and availability of resources As part of this "continuing process" the programme drawn up for the development of National Highways during the Fourth Plan period covered mainly the 44 routes existing at the commencement of the Fourth Plan and certain works on some of the newly added routes also

(b) and (c) Bihar has 9 National Highways including Chas-Ranchi-Rourkela-Talcher road, declared as National Highway No 23 in March, 1972. All the National Highways except the newly added National Highway No 23 and the National Highway No 6, which is to the required standards and short in length, are being developed i.e widened, strengthened and improved as a part of the Fourth Plan development programmes to meet the traffic needs The improvement Works are in various stages of progress Some of these works were

...mpleted in the Fourth Plan period and the balance spilled over to the Fifth Plan. Funds permitting these are likely to be completed by the end of Fifth Plan period.

Although the list of new works of the Fifth Plan have not yet been finalised, this process of development of the national highways will continue in the Fifth Plan, again depending upon the availability of resources.

पुरुष तथा महिला श्रमिकों को समान मजदूरी न देने पर सजा

1709. श्री मूल चन्द डागा : क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) 20 सूत्रीय आर्थिक कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत समान महत्व के कार्य के लिये पुरुष और महिला श्रमिकों को समान मजदूरी न देने पर राज्यवार कितने व्यक्तियों को सजा दी गई; और

(ख) समान पारिश्रमिक अधिनियम के अन्तर्गत, राज्यवार, ऐसे कितने व्यक्तियों के विरुद्ध कानूनी कार्यवाही की गई ?

श्रम मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री बाल-गोविन्द वर्मा) : (क) और (ख). सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है ।

खेतिहर मजदूरों को निम्नतम मजदूरी न दिये जाने के बारे में न्यायालयों में अनिर्णीत पड़े मामले

1710. श्री मूल चन्द डागा : क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) निम्नतम मजदूरी अधिनियम के अन्तर्गत खेतिहर मजदूरों को निम्नतम मजदूरी न दिये जाने के बारे में अभी तक न्यायालयों में कितने मुकदमे अनिर्णीत पड़े हैं; और

(ख) ऐसे मुकदमों की राज्यवार संख्या कितनी है तथा इस अधिनियम के अन्तर्गत कितने लोगों को सजा दी गई है ?

श्रम मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री बाल-गोविन्द वर्मा) : (क) और (ख). कृषि में अधिकांश रोजगार राज्य क्षेत्राधिकार में आते हैं जहां न्यूनतम मजदूरी अधिनियम, 1948 के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न अनुसूचित रोजगारों में, कृषि सहित, तथा अधिनियम के विभिन्न उपबन्धों के कार्यान्वयन के लिए भी राज्य सरकारें न्यूनतम मजदूरियों के निर्धारण/पुनरीक्षण के लिए समुचित सरकारें हैं । केन्द्रीय क्षेत्राधिकार के संबंध में केन्द्रीय सरकार के पास उपलब्ध सूचनानुसार, न्यायालयों में ऐसे कोई मामले लंबित नहीं हैं । राज्य सरकारों/संघ शासित क्षेत्रों के सम्बन्ध में सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है ।

Committee on recruitment, welfare, etc., of Calcutta Port workers

1711. SHRI R. N. BARMAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee was appointed to consider the question of recruitment, welfare, etc. of Calcutta port workers;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has since submitted its report; and

(c) if so, the findings thereof and those accepted for implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Non-Aligned Press Pool

1712. SHRI R. N. BARMAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of finalising a 'Non-aligned Press Pool' was considered at the Colombo Conference of Non-aligned nations;

(b) if so, the nature of organisational structure that the Pool will have; and

(c) the assistance to be given by the Indian Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Summit meeting of Heads of State and Governments of non-aligned countries at Colombo approved the Constitution of the Press Agencies Pool as adopted at the Ministerial Conference held at New Delhi in July, 1976. The organizational structure of the Pool is detailed in that Constitution which has already been widely published.

(c) India will actively participate in the Pool in accordance with its Constitution mentioned above.

Alleged Cumbersome Customs and Administrative Procedure in Calcutta Port

1713. SHRI R. N. BARMAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether customs and other administrative procedures are so cumbersome at Calcutta Port that a ship takes nearly fortnight to load cargo ports;

(b) whether because of the delay, ships are carrying cargo less by 1000 to 2000 tonnes and as such the port earnings are affected to that extent; and

(c) if so, steps being taken to cut red-tape and make the whole procedure easier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI): (a) It is not correct that the customs and administrative procedures are specially cumbersome at Calcutta Port; in fact, uniform customs procedures are followed at all ports.

(b) and (c): Being a terminal port, the ships bringing in import cargo to this port take export cargo on their return voyage. They also take advantage of ship-repairing facilities available at the port. There is also a tendency on the part of the crew to prolong the stay on shore to some extent. These factors lead to longer stap of ships at this port compared to other ports. However, every attempt is being made to speed up the procedures. A working group comprising representatives of port shipping interests and shippers has been constituted to go into the working procedures presently obtaining in the port with a view to streamlining them wherever found necessary.

Proposal for Introduction of New Telegraphic Codes

1714. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telegraphic codes for sending messages have remained stagnant over a long period;

(b) if so, whether Government consider a proposal for introduction addition of new telegraphic codes in the interest of the consumers and the Department; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/propsed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA): (a) The P & T Department has not prescribed any telegraphic code for sending public messages.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Study of problems of Bonded Labour

1715. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to carry out in depth the study of the problems of bonded labour to facilitate appropriate remedial action programme; and

(b) if so, the main features of the proposal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BAL GOVIND VERMA): (a) and (b). The National Labour Institute, an autonomous organisation under the Labour Ministry, has conducted a number of micro level studies on various aspects of the problems of the bonded labour. Some of their studies have been published in the National Labour Institute's Bulletin. That apart, a proposal for a comprehensive in depth study by the Director, Labour Bureau on the bonded labour system-District-wise estimate of magnitude and evaluation of the rehabilitation measures is under active consideration.

Special Cell for Coordinating Schemes for Agricultural Labour

1716. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a special cell to coordinate and monitor the schemes for Agricultural labour;

(b) if so, what is the exclusive strength of the Agriculture Cell created and the amount spent on it during 1975-76; and

(c) whether there is a proposal to strengthen the cell to coordinate and monitor the schemes more effectively under 20-point economic programme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BAL GOVIND VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The strength of the Cell during 1975-76 was as follows:—

Section Officer	1
Investigator	2
Assistant	1
L.D.C.	1

The expenditure incurred during 1975-76 was Rs. 45.304.

(c) Since the introduction of the Abolition of the Bonded Labour System Act, the State Governments/ Union Territories have been requested to formulate schemes for the rehabilitation of emancipated bonded labour. Action is also being taken to introduce legislation for the welfare of Agricultural Workers. The question of strengthening the Cell is under constant review.

Issue of Stamp on Occasion of Birth Centenary of Saint Gadge Maharaj

1717. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra have sent a proposal to issue a stamp on the occasion of the birth centenary of the Saint Gadge Maharaj this year; and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA): (a) and (b). The proposal for the issue of a commemorative stamp on the birth centenary of Gadge Maharaj in 1976 was received from the Mayor of Poona in May, 1976, but due to very short notice given, it was not possible to accommodate the same in the programme. No separate proposal was received from the Government of Maharashtra.

Reward to Doctors performing highest number of Tubectomy Operations

1718. SHRI R. P. DAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the Doctor who has performed the highest number of tubectomy operations in the country;

(b) the second highest; and

(c) the reward given to those doctors?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE): (a) to (c). There is no notional award for doctors performing the largest number of tubectomy operations as such. For the year 1975-76, a special award has been instituted for best family planning work done by a medical/para medical/field worker. For this purpose medical officers performing the largest number of sterilisations would be considered on receipt of proposals from the State Governments.

I.L.O. for creation of jobs to Eliminate Unemployment

1719. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report that International Labour Organisation has estimated that over 1,000 million additional jobs will have to be created in developing countries alone before the end of the century if unemployment and poverty are to be eliminated; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government's reaction to the ILO proposals, in general, was set out in the Labour Minister's Speech delivered at the World Employment Conference, a copy of which was already laid on the Table of the Sabha in reply to Starred Question No. 138 on the 19th August, 1976.

Pollution from Coal Mines

1720. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports that pollution from coal mines has proved comparatively more injurious to health; and

(b) if so, the steps taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE): (a) and (b). No. Pollution from coal mines is comparatively less injurious to health than other environmental pollution. Necessary steps for checking pollution in the coal mines are taken by Central Mining Research Station at Dhanbad, Directorate General of Mines Safety; Directorate General of Factory Advice Services and Labour Institute, Bombay and Coal Mines Welfare Organisation, Dhanbad.

Joint Secretary appointed as Administrator of Nationalised IISCO

1721. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether one of the Joint Secretaries of his Ministry has been appointed as Administrator of the Nationalised Indian Iron and Steel Company and also as member of the Board of management; and

(b) if so, whether this goes against the recommendations of the Administrative Reforms Commission, as also against the recommendations of the Committee on Public Undertakings in their 14th Report (5th Lok Sabha, 1971-72), 70th Report (4th Lok Sabha, 1969-70), and 77th Report (5th Lok Sabha, 1975-76)?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) and (b). Shri V. K. Dar, formerly Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Steel and Mines (Department of Steel) has been appointed whole-time Administrator, Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited and Member of the Board of Management of the company with effect from the 25th December, 1975. As this is a whole-time appointment, the recommendations referred to in part (b) of the question do no apply to this case.

D.T.C. Earnings

1722. SHRI RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) whether there has been a steep rise in the earnings of DTC during the past few months; and

(b) if so, the break-up of earnings by sale of tickets and money realised by imposing fine on ticketless travellers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) There has been a significant improvement in this respect.

(b) Traffic income and composition fee recovered from ticketless passengers during the period from September, 1975 to July, 1976, monthwise, are given below:—

Month	Income (Rs. in lakhs)	Amount of composition fee recovered from ticketless passengers. (Rs. in lakhs)
September '75	140·28	1·03
October '75	150·42	·92
November '75	147·15	·47
December '75	147·91	·76
January '76	156·49	1·34
February '76	157·10	·77
March '76	173·57	·55
April '76	173·53	·72
May '76	185·73	1·67
June '76	186·65	·84
July '76	199·59	·30

D.T.C. buses involved in Accidents

1723. SHRI RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a rise in the number of accidents involving DTC buses; and

(b) if so, the number of accidents during the first six months of this year and steps taken to curb the accidents?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes. However, number of accidents per lakh kilometres operated has not risen.

(b) During the period from 1-1-1976 to 30-6-76, the D.T.C. buses were in-

volved in 1246 accidents. Following steps have been taken to check accidents:—

(i) Only those persons are recruited for the post of drivers, who have minimum of 3 years experience of heavy vehicle driving.

(ii) New recruits are given intensive training in the training school and employment is given on their successfully completing the training course.

(iii) New entrants have to undergo medical check up to ensure their physical fitness and visual auvity.

(iv) In order to check rash-driving, maximum speed limit for city buses has been fixed at 40 K.M. per hour.

(v) The Traffic Police have introduced bus lanes on certain roads.

(vi) Drivers are given incentive rewards for accident free record.

Minimum Wages to Agricultural Labourers

1724. SHRI R. P. DAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the States in which the minimum wage of Rs. 8.10 for the agricultural labourers has so far been given effect to; and

(b) whether the State agriculture, sericulture farms and the Central Sericulture Research Station in West Bengal have not yet implemented the minimum wage as a matter of Government policy?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) and (b). The required information is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House as soon as received.

Drowning of a Kandla Port worker

1725. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU:
SHRI D. K. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether on 20th May, 1976 a Kandla Port worker G. Narayan was on duty and in the afternoon he was missing;

(b) if so, whether any action was taken to trace him on the same day and the following day;

(c) whether his body was found floating tied with stones in the water on 22nd May; and

(d) whether any post mortem was done and what is the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A search was made on both the days under the jetty as well as in the creek waters.

(c) The body was found floating on 22nd May, 1976 with a weight tied to the right hand wrist

(d) According to post mortem done at Government Hospital, Anjar, asphyxia due to strangulation was the reason for death. Police investigations are continuing.

Waste of Metals

1726. SHRI P. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge quantities of metals are wasted every year in the form of dross, scraps, turnings and spent fluxes, etc.; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to avoid this wastage?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) and (b). In integrated steel plants, arising of certain waste materials from part of the production process. Such waste materials are mainly coke breeze, blast furnace slag, mill scrap, fines of iron ore, limetone, dolomite, zinc dross, tin dross, etc. By and large these are beneficially utilised within the plant or sold in the market where it is then refined/finished and re-used in the industries.

Development Cess for minerals

1727. SHRI NATHURAM AHIRWAR:
SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a development cess is imperative for promoting the development of minerals and mineral-bearing areas;

(b) whether Government have considered the recommendations of the Committee on Development Cess made in May, 1973; and

(c) possible time Government propose to take to give effect to the recommendations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) to (c). The recommendations of the "Committee on the Development Cess on Minerals" are being examined by Government and a decision in the matter is likely to be taken in the near future.

Purified Antigens Isolated from Blood

1728. SHRI P. GANGADEB: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether recent research has led to the discovery that Purified antigens isolated from Infected Liver, Spleen and Blood are immunogenic;

(b) if so, whether they are also capable of stimulating production of anti-bodies against malaria; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Studies are still under progress.

Lack of Communication between Management and Employees' Union at DASP

1729. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state whether there is no channel of communications and consultation between the Management and the Hindustan Steel Employees Union of the Alloy Steel Plant at Durgapur?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV): There are both formal and informal channels of communication and consultation between the management and Hindustan Steel Employees' Union of the Alloy Steels Plant, Durgapur.

Sheet Mill of Durgapur Alloy Steel Plant

1730. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state whether it is proposed to replace out dated, uneconomic sheet mill of Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur by a modern mill?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): There is no proposal at present to replace the existing sheet mill. The pre-investment feasibility report for expansion of Alloy Steels Plants, Durgapur, pre-

pared by Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Ltd., has taken into consideration certain deficiencies of this sheet mill and has suggested installation of certain balancing facilities. These are being examined by Steel Authority of India Ltd.

Despatch of Stainless Steel from Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur

1731. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which despatch of stainless steel from Alloy steel plant at Durgapur is gradually declining since January, 1976; and

(b) what is the import scheme for stainless steel?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) Reduction in inventory/activisation of inventory, preference for imported materials and liberalisation of the import policy for actual users for import of stainless steel for manufacture of utensil and hospital equipments are the main contributory factors for decline in the offtake of stainless steel sheets/plates from Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur.

(b) The present policy provides for import of:—

(i) Stainles steel/heat resisting steel wire rods for wire drawing subject to certain conditions;

(ii) Stainless steel heat resisting steel strips in cold rolled condition for pennib industry, Razor blade industry, watch strap industry and spiral wound gaskets;

(iii) Cold rolled and hot rolled coils for watch industry;

(iv) Stainless steel plates, sheets, strips and coils in certain sizes for certain specified industrial uses;

(v) Stainless steel sheets, strips for hospital equipment and utensil, under Open General Licensing, restricted to MMTC who will sell the imported material at a pre-determined reserve price.

The Registered Exporters Import Policy, formulated and administered by the Ministry of Commerce, also provides for import of stainless steel/heat resisting steel sheets, plates and strips against export of certain products including stainless steel utensils, hospital equipment etc.

Cost of Installation of Micro-Wave and overhead Telephone Lines

1732. SHRI CHAPALENDU BHATTACHARYYIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the relative capital cost of installing micro wave and through overhead telephone lines between two points 100 kilometres apart;

(b) the annual maintenance cost for these two different types of telecommunications; and

(c) the relative efficiency of microwave and telephone lines as measured by percentage of maturity of trunk calls?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA): (a) and (b). Essentialy, open wire carrier systems on overhead lines are small capacity systems providing upto about 60 speech circuits on a route whereas microwave systems are large capacity systems providing 120 channels to 1800 channels or even more. The former are, therefore, installed on low traffic routes while the latter are installed on heavy traffic routes. The relative capital costs and

annual charges of the two types of systems are as follows:

Type of system(s)	No. of channels.	Capital cost	Annual charges
		(Rs. in Lakhs.)	
Open wire line	60	49·53	7·43
2 GHz Microwave	120	70	14
7 GHz microwave	300	106	21·2
6 GHz ,,	1800	370	74

(c) (i) Microwave systems are engineered for an efficiency of 99.99 per cent.

(ii) The efficiency of overhead lines depends upon various factors such as weather conditions, the terrain, etc A good line can be expected to give an efficiency of 80 to 85 per cent

(iii) Apart from the efficiency of the trunk circuit medium, the percentage of maturity of trunk calls will depend upon other factors like the traffic load on the route efficiency of the terminal telephone systems etc.

Incidence of Filaria around the Industrial Areas of Durgapur-Asansol, Dhanbad-Bokaro, Ranchi and Ramgarh

1733 SHRI CHAPALENDU BHATTACHARYYIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the incidence of reported cases of filaria in and around the industrial areas of Durgapur-Asansol, Dhanbad-Bokaro Steel-Bermo, Ranchi and Ramgarh in 1974, 1975 and 1976;

(b) the steps taken thereon and result achieved so far; and

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon year-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE): (a) According to the information furnished by the State health authorities, the number of cases of filaria in Ranchi was one in 1974 and six in 1975. In Dhanbad, there was no case reported in 1974 but 93 cases were reported in 1975. No survey has been conducted in Durgapur and Asansol areas in West Bengal and Burmo and Ramgarh in Bihar. No information about the number of filaria cases in Bokaro Steel complex is readily available.

(b) Efforts are being made to delimit filariasis in un-surveyed districts in the country which include Hazaribagh of Bihar and Burdwan of West Bengal. In Ranchi town, Filaria control measures were started in 1953 The disease rate there has fallen from 5 per cent in 1958 to 0 1 per cent in 1975 In Dhanbad town, filaria control measures have been started in 1975 It is too early to determine the impact of these control measures due to the chronic nature of the disease.

(c) The Government of India provides assistance to the State Government by way of material and equipment under the National Filaria Control Programme. The Central assistance for Ranchi, Dhanbad and Durgapur is as follows —

City	1974 (Rs.)	1975 (Rs.)
Ranchi	44,000	16,000
Dhanbad	31,000	55,000
Durgapur	.	47,000

The operational cost on the control measures is borne by the State Government.

दिल्ली में मोटर चालित साईकल रिक्शा

1734. **श्री मोहन स्वरूप :** क्या नौवहन और परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार के विचाराधीन कोई ऐसी योजना है जिसके अन्तर्गत दिल्ली में मोटर चालित रिक्शा चलाई जायेंगी;

(ख) क्या ऐसी रिक्शा चलाई करने के लिए एक व्यापारी को ठेका दिया गया है, और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस दिशा में कितनी प्रगति हुई है ?

नौवहन और परिवहन मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री बलबीर सिंह) : (क) जी, हां।

(ख) जी, नहीं ।

(ग) दिल्ली प्रशासन ने 17-7-1976 को आदेश जारी किए, जिसमें प्रयोगात्मक आधार पर इस प्रकार के इंजिन लगे साईकिल रिक्शा के चलाये जाने की अनुमति दी गयी है, जो प्रशासन द्वारा स्वीकृत किए जायें । यह सुविधा केवल वर्तमान साईकिल रिक्शो तक ही सीमित है और जमनापार क्षेत्र में ही चलाये जाने के लिए है । अब तक, प्रशासन द्वारा जारी किए गए आदेशों की शर्तों पर कोई भी साईकिल रिक्शा स्वामी/चालक मोटरयुक्त-रिक्शा परिचालन के लिए उपयुक्तता प्रमाणपत्र प्राप्त करने के लिए आगे नहीं आया है ।

P. F. Outstanding against A.C.C.

1735. SHRI G. P YADAV. Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) the total amount of employees' provident fund outstanding against the Associated Cement Company Limited, particularly of its Delhi Zone for the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the reasons for non-deposit and the action taken by Government so far in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) The Provident Fund Authorities have reported that the units of M/s Associated Cement Companies Limited and particularly the establishments in Delhi Zone are reporting compliance regularly. No amount of Provident fund contribution is outstanding against the establishment for the last three years.

(b) Does not arise.

Default in Payment of P. F. by A.C.C.

1736. SHRI G P. YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state.

(a) how many times, the Associated Cement Company, Delhi Zone defaulted in the Payment of Employees' Provident Fund during the last three years;

(b) the nature of action taken for this default; and

(c) the officer held responsible for not depositing the amount?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): The Provident Fund Authorities have reported as under:—

(a) The units of M/s. Associated Cement Company Limited and particularly the establishment in Delhi Zone are reporting compliance in time and regularly.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Indian Students in Foreign Countries

1737. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government propose to manage Crash Course in Indian

history and latest developments in India so that intending visitors to U.S.A. and other countries could paint a good picture of India; and

(b) whether Government propose to instruct its Embassies in these countries to be in regular touch with them and from time to time supply them information, pamphlets and organise meet when distinguished visitor from the country is available?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) and (b) In cases where specific information is officially available about officially sponsored or approved delegations and individuals going abroad they are usually briefed and provided with appropriate literature by the Ministry of External Affairs.

Similar action is also taken by our Missions abroad who keep in regular touch with them during their visits and arrange meetings for them as and when necessary and feasible. In addition, our Missions abroad have been advised to keep in close touch with all visiting Indians who approach the Missions with a view to suitably brief them on various current issues.

Standardisation of Glass for Lenses

1738 SHRI N. K. SANGHI
SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether sale of lenses made of sub-standard glass both for powered spectacles and sunglasses are quite rampant in the big cities in the country;

(b) whether as a result of use of such glasses many people cause further injury to their eyesight; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE). (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The Government are seized of this problem and are examining steps necessary to be taken in this regard.

हिन्दुस्तान जिंक लिमिटेड, उदयपुर

1739. **डा० लक्ष्मी नारायण पांडेय** : क्या इस्पात और खान मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष 1974–75 और 1975–76 में हिन्दुस्तान जिंक लि० में कितना उत्पादन होने का अनुमान था; और वास्तव में वहां इस अवधि में कितना उत्पादन हुआ;

(ख) उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए कम्पनी ने क्या प्रयास किये हैं; और

(ग) उक्त अवधि में इस कम्पनी ने कितना लाभ कमाया है ?

इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री सुखदेव प्रसाद) : (क) से (ग)। हिन्दुस्तान जिंक लिमिटेड के 1974–75 और 1975–76 के लक्ष्य और वास्तविक

उत्पादन और प्राप्त लाभ के आंकड़े नीचे दिए गए हैं :—

(आंकड़े टनों में)

	जस्ता धातु	सीसा धातु	केडेमियम धातु	सिनल सुपर फास्फेट
1974–75				
लक्ष्य . . .	15,400	3,600	40	55,000
वास्तविक उत्पादन . .	13,952	4,109	46	50,670
प्राप्त लाभ . . . (कर-पूर्व)	—	893.45 लाख रुपए		
1975–76				
लक्ष्य . . .	14,750	6,000	40	50,000
वास्तविक उत्पादन . .	16,031	5,155	32	20,028*
प्राप्त लाभ (कर-पूर्व) .	—	1076	लाख रुपए (अंतिम)	

*सिनल सुपर फास्फेट का 1975–76 में कम मांग के कारण कम उत्पादन हुआ।

देवरी प्रद्रावक की क्षमता 18,000 टन से बढ़ा कर 45,000 टन वार्षिक की जा रही है। हिन्दुस्तान जिंक लि० आयातित सांद्रों पर आधारित विशाखापतनम (आंध्र प्रदेश) में 30,000 टन वार्षिक क्षमता का एक नया जस्ता प्रद्रावक भी लगा रही है। दोनों ही योजनाओं के 1976 के अन्त तक फलीभूत हो जाने की आशा है।

कम्पनी के टुंडु (बिहार) स्थित सीसा प्रद्रावक का आधुनिकीकरण हो रहा है ताकि उससे 8,000 टन वार्षिक सीसा उत्पादन किया जा सके। इसके अलावा कम्पनी विशाखापतनम जस्ता प्रद्रावक परियोजना में 10 000 टन की वार्षिक क्षमता का एक सीसा प्रद्रावक और लगा रही है जिसके 1976–77 में बन कर चालू हो जाने की सम्भावना है।

12 hrs.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Ausgram): Sir, I want to make a submission. I have received a telegram from Asansol. .

MR SPEAKER: You should not raise it like this. You should bring it to my notice first. You should not raise this in this House like this. It is a very bad procedure Then, I cannot prevent many other Members also from raising this. You are saying now that you have received a telegram and you are reading that out. Please send it on to me I do not want to go into that.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: I have sent Notice under 377.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall look into it. It is all the more reason that you should not raise it. Now, Papers Laid on the Table.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATION UNDER DRUGS AND COSMETICS

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Drugs and Cosmetic (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 1976 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1098 in Gazette of India dated the 24th July, 1976 under section 38 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-11226/76.]

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION (REGULATION) ACT.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS: (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): Sir, on behalf of Shri F. H. Mohsin, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 755(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th August, 1976 issued under sub-section (3) of section 1 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976

(2) A copy of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rules, 1976 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 756(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th August, 1976, under sub-section (3) of section 30 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation Act, 1976. [*Placed in Library See* No. LT-1122/76.]

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER TAMIL NADU MOTOR VEHICLES TAXATION ACT AND A STATEMENT

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 25 of the Tamil Nadu Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1974 read with clause (c) (iv) of the Proclamation dated the 31st January, 1976 issued by the President in relation to the State of Tamil Nadu:—

(i) G.O. Ms. 2242 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 14th September, 1974.

(ii) G.O. Ms 879 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 11th June, 1975 making certain amendment to the Tamil Nadu Motor Vehicles Taxation Rules, 1974.

(iii) G.O. Ms. 1975 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 19th November, 1975.

(iv) G.O. Ms. 63 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 12th January, 1976.

(v) G.O. Ms. 397 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 17th March, 1976.

(vi) G.O. Ms. 414 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 24th March, 1976.

(vii) G.O. Ms. 427 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 24th March, 1976.

(viii) G.O. Ms. 746 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 1st April, 1976.

(ix) G.O. Ms 633 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 7th April, 1976.

(x) G.O. Ms 834 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 9th April, 1976.

(xi) G.O. Ms. 840 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 9th April, 1976.

(xii) G.O. Ms. 704 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 14th April, 1976.

[Shri Dalbir Singh]

(xiii) G.O. Ms 831 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 28th April, 1976.

(xiv) G.O. Ms. 893 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 5th May. 1976.

(xv) G.O. Ms. 922 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 12th May, 1976.

(xvi) G.O. Ms. 923 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 12th May, 1976.

(xvii) The Tamil Nadu Rural Road Development Fund Rules, 1976, published in Notification No. G.O. Ms. 949 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 19th May, 1976.

(xviii) G.O. Ms. 988 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 19th May, 1976.

(xix) G.O. Ms 1053 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 26th May, 1976.

(xx) G.O. Ms 1056 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 26th May, 1976.

(xxi) G.O Ms 1104 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 2nd June, 1976.

(xxii) G.O. Ms. 1113 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 2nd June, 1976

(xxiii) G.O. Ms. 1209 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 16th June, 1976.

(xxiv) G.O. Ms 1274 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 23rd June, 1976

(xxv) G.O Ms 1308 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 30th June, 1976.

(xxvi) G.O. Ms. 1393 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 30th June, 1976.

(xxvii) G.O. Ms. 1660 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 10th July, 1976.

(xxviii) G.O. Ms. 1489 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 14th July, 1976.

(2) A statement (Hindi and English version) showing reasons for delay in laying the above Notifications. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-11228/76.]

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER COAL MINES PROVIDENT FUND AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS ACT AND STATEMENT EMPLOYEES PROVIDENT FUNDS AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS ACT, ETC.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 7A of the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1948:—

(i) The Coal Mines Provident Fund (Amendment) Scheme, 1976 published in Notification No. G.S.R. No. 845 in Gazette of India dated the 12th June, 1976

(ii) The Andhra Pradesh Coal Mines Provident Fund (Amendment) Scheme, 1976, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 846 in Gazette of India dated the 12th June, 1976.

(iii) The Rajasthan Coal Mines Provident Fund (Amendment) Scheme, 1976 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 847 in Gazette of India dated the 12th June, 1976.

(iv) The Neyveli Coal Mines Provident Fund (Amendment) Scheme, 1976, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 848 in Gazette of India dated the 12th June, 1976

(v) The Coal Mines Deposit-linked Insurance Scheme, 1976, Published in Notification No. G.S.R. 487(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th July, 1976 (English version) and 21st August, 1976 (Hindi version).

(2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the above Notifications. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-11229/76.]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 7 of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952:—

(i) The Employees' Provident Funds (Third Amendment) Scheme, 1976, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1103 in Gazette of India dated the 24th July, 1976.

(ii) G.S.R. 1141 published in Gazette of India dated the 31st July, 1976 making certain amendment to Notification No. G.S.R. 395 dated the 20th February, 1976.

(iii) The Employees Deposit-linked Insurance Scheme, 1976, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 483(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th July, 1976 (English version) and 21st August, 1976 (Hindi version). [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-11230/76.]

(4) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) on the working of the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Scheme, for the year 1974-75. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-11231/76.]

(5) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) on the fatal accident at Kaplas West Limestone and Dolomite Mine belonging to M/s. Bisra Stone Lime Company Limited, Birmitrapur, on the 12th June, 1976. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-11232/76.]

(6) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) on the fatal accident at Hesalong Colliery, District Hazaribagh, on the 28th February, 1975. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-11232/76.]

(7) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) on the fatal accident at Ara Colliery belonging to M/s, Coal Mines Authority Limited (now Coal India Limited) on the 14th May, 1975. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-11232/76.]

(8) A copy of Notification No. G.O. Ms. 1006 published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 1st January, 1976 making certain amendments to the Tamil Nadu Catering Establishment Rules, 1959 under sub-section (4) of section 29 of the Tamil Nadu Catering Establishments Act, 1958 read with clause (c) (iv) of the Proclamation dated the 31st January, 1976 issued by the President in relation to the State of Tamil Nadu [*Placed in Library. See* No LT-11233/76.]

(9) A statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining the reasons for not laying simultaneously the Hindi version of the above Notification [*Placed in Library See* No. LT-11233/76.]

(10) A copy of the Industrial Disputes (Gujarat) (Amendment) Rules 1976 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. KH-SH-356/IDA-1176-41292—Jh in Gujarat Government Gazette dated the 3rd April, 1976 under sub-section (5) of section 38 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 read with clause (c) (iii) of the Proclamation dated the 12th March, 1976 issued by the President in relation to the State of Gujarat [*Placed in Library See* No. LT-11234/76.]

(11) A copy of the Tamil Nadu Contract Labour (Regulaion and Abolition) Rules, 1975 published in Notification No G O Ms. 973 in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated the 31st December, 1975 under sub-section (3) of section 35 of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act 1970 read with clause (c) (iv) of the Proclamation dated the 31st January, 1976 issued

[Shri Balgovind Verma]
by the President in relation to the State of Tamil Nadu. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-11235/76.]

(12) A statement explaining the reasons for not laying simultaneously the Hindi version of the above Notification. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-11235/76.]

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

(i) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (No. 5) Bill, 1976, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th August, 1976, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Tamil Nadu Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1976, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 23rd August, 1976, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

(iii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Pondicherry Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1976, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 23rd August, 1976, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

12.04 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

SCANTY SUPPLY OF WATER IN CAUVERY DELTA

SHRI K. GOPAL (Karur): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation to the following matter of public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"The situation created in Cauvery delta owing to scanty supply of water from Krishnaraja Sagar and other dams and poor storage in the Mettur reservoir."

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur): Sir, I rise on a point of order. My point of order is regarding the procedure. The scarcity conditions prevail not only in Madras State but in other States too in the country. Many Members have earlier submitted regarding the scarcity conditions prevailing in their States. Scarcity condition is also prevailing in Karnataka State. That notice has not been admitted. When talks are going on, the Minister is here making a statement....

MR SPEAKER: Order, please. I am very sorry. There cannot be any point of order against the decision of the Chair. I will not allow that.

SHRI K LAKKAPPA: Will you kindly listen to me, Sir? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You are raising objection against that. I am sorry I am not allowing that.

You cannot raise any point of order against the decision of the Chair on the question of admission.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I am not doing it.

MR. SPEAKER: You have said so.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I am asking whether it is in order and in accordance with the procedure....

MR. SPEAKER: You are again raising it.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Is it proper to raise this matter when a dialogue is going on between them for sharing of the water.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. Shri Kedar Nath Singh.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR NATH SINGH): The Cauvery is an inter-state basin covering the States of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Mettur is the lower-most reservior on the Cauvery in Tamil Nadu. Krishnaraja Sagar is the next upper reservoir on the Cauvery in Karnataka. Two new reservoirs, namely Kabini and Hemavati have recently been constructed by Karnataka. The rainfall in the catchment area upstream of Krishnaraja Sagar has been substantially less than the normal during the current monsoon. As a result, the inflow at Krishnaraja Sagar was far below normal, being 1 TMC in June against the normal of 12 TMC, 20 TMC in July against the normal of 68 TMC, and 25 TMC in August (upto 20th) against the normal of 53 TMC. Krishnaraja Sagar had a carry over storage of about 4 TMC on 1st June while Mettur reservoir had a carry over storage of 24.7 TMC on the same date.

In the Kabini catchment also, the rainfall is inadequate and only 10 TMC of Kabini inflows have been impounded. Owing to shortage of water, Tamil Nadu has thrown open 12.6 lakh acres area to irrigation against 16 lakhs in a normal year. Karnataka had released, during the first half of August, 15 TMC of water. Karnataka has given instructions on 23rd August for release of additional 10 TMC. About 44.5 TMC of water has been released below Mettur for irrigation in Tamil Nadu upto 24th August.

During the current lean monsoon, the officers of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are in constant touch with one another, and are working out mutually acceptable arrangements. Both the State Governments are making efforts to ensure that available waters are shared on an equitable basis.

The above position relates to the situation during the current monsoon. However, regarding the main issue relating to use and development of Cauvery waters, discussions lasting six hours were held with the Chief Minister of Karnataka, the two Ministers of Kerala and the Governor of Tamil Nadu on 25th August. The discussions are still continuing.

SHRI K. GOPAL: First of all, would like to say that I was born and brought up in Tamil Nadu, but I spent the best part of my youth in Karnataka. When I raised this, I did so in the national interest and you in your wisdom admitted it. I do not know why my hon. friend, Shri Lakkappa, should be upset about this.. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI B. V. NAIK (Kanara): Because you called it 'scanty supply of water'.

SHRI K. GOPAL: What is wrong in that? Please listen to me. There is nothing wrong in that.. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order.

SHRI K. GOPAL: I will give my arguments. The only thing I want to say is that when I raise this, it is because food production in Tamil Nadu suffers.

MR. SPEAKER: Ask your question

SHRI K. POPAL: Now the storage level in Mettur is only about 30 feet as against the normal 120 ft. The inflow is only 2,000 cusecs as against the normal discharge on alternate days of 10,000 cusecs. What I want to say with no malice to my friends from Karnataka is this. I do not say that they are just impounding water. I would like to say that which is a fact, that there are 36 TMC of storage in Krishnaraja Sagar as against the normal of 45 TMC, and the water that was let out in the first week was 5 TMC, which was coming. Even according to the statement only 1.2 million acres have been permitted to draw water and the rest four lakh acres did not get water at all. Therefore, I should like to ask the government whether they will see to it that there is immediate release of water so that the withering crops are saved. Kuruvai has already gone; *samba* is coming up. Secondly, will the dispute be settled once for all so that projects can come up quickly. For example in my constituency there is a project called *Noyyel;* it cannot be constructed because it is linked to Cauvery. Even though it is further up from Mettur Dam and water seeps down and during rainy season we can store some water by constructing a dam there, we cannot do it because it is linked to Cauvery dispute. I want to know whether he will find a settlement; the 50 year agreement had expired in 1974. The hon. Minister said that there were some discussions going on between the representatives of the three state governments. I should like to know the outcome of those discussions. When the discussions are over, will the government evolve a national water policy. It cannot be done right now Just as there is a southern power grid, can there be at least on a regional basis some such arrangement. Between Kerala and Tamilnadu official level talks are going on and they are going to give some water to Coimbatore district and to Hinnevelley and Ramnad districts also. So, at least on a regional basis please see some arrangement is made in this regard.

SHRI KEDAR NATH SINGH: At this stage I can only say that the talks are continuing and they are progressing well. Yesterday for six hours the representatives of the three governments sat together and discussed the matter. Still they are discussing the matter and I am hopeful that they will come to an agreement today and we shall be in a position to announce in the House either today or tomorrow. As regards the difficulties encountered by Tamil Nadu, everybody shares the anxiety of the hon. Member and arrangements are being made so that the people there do not suffer. But at the same time there are conditions of scarcity and those conditions also should be shared by all the concerned states. On the 23rd of this month the Chief Minister of Karnataka has given direction to release 10 TMC of water and that shall be enough at least for a week because Tamil Nadu requires 1.5 TMC per day; and I think today or by tomorrow we shall be able to come to an agreement about the sharing of water.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN (Tiruttani): I should like to give you a small background

MR. SPEAKER: Background for what?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: For my question. Cauvery is one of the sacred rivers of India

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: All rivers are sacred ... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I request my friend not to interrupt me. When we perform *Sankalpam* we mention all the sacred rivers of India and the shloka runs like this:

गंगे च यमुने चैव गोदावरी सरस्वती
नर्मदे सिन्धु कावेरी जलेस्मिन् सन्निधिं कुरु ।

Then again river Cauvery has been celebrated in a very ancient Tamil poem called Pattinapalai and the poet

says: "*Van poipinum than poyya.*" It means that even if the sky fails in its bounty, river Cauvery does not fail. Evidently the poet did not take into account today's Karnataka Government.... (*Interruptions*). From literature. I come to historical facts.

MR. SPEAKER: You should not look to Mr. Lakkappa. If you look to the Chair, there will be no problem.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Rule 197 does not say that you can refer to literature history, etc.

MR. SPEAKER: I agree; you should not go into the background. Come to the present.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The great Chola Emperor, Karikala Chola, was the first man to train the river Cauvery and prevent flood damages, in the Tanjore delta. If you refer to the learned book written by our ex-Minister for Irrigation and Power, Dr. K. L. Rao, you will find that the Grand Anicut on Cauvery was built in the first century A.D. In the middle of the last century, Sir. Arthur Cotton, an eminent British Engineer, was fascinated by the construction of Grand Anicut. Taking the cue from the Grand Anicut, he designed the weirs on the Godavari and Krishna and also the canal systems of the Godavari and Krishna rivers. Another British Officer, Proby T. Cautley...

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: British officers names should not be mentioned at all. What is the relevance?

MR. SPEAKER: Don't go into the past too much.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: He designed the Ganga canal system and the Yamuna canal system The irrigation system of Cauvery is as ancient as the first century. All other canal systems and irrigation systems are at least 18 to 19 centuries behind it. The Cauvery delta had been developed for such a long time. So, there should not be any dispute that this old delta should be fed by the Cauvery. There was an agreement in 1924....

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: It is irrelevant to the calling attention. By way of calling attention, he cannot bring in agreements and all that. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Alagesan, don't convert it into an inter-State dispute. Confine yourself to the terms of the calling attention, i.e. the situation created in the Cauvery delta on account of scanty supply of water. Do not go into history and all those things.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The minister himelf has said in his statement that discussions were held with the Chief Minister of Karnataka, the two Ministers of Kerala and the Governor of Tamil Nadu. So, this relates to the long-term agreement that they propose to arrive at. So, I am within my rights to refer to the 1924 Agreement. You cannot shut me out like this... (*Interruptions*). By shouting I cannot be stopped. Sir, I seek your protection.. (*Interruptions*) There is reference to that.

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA (Bangalore): Sir, May I make a suggestion? I agree with you that this kind of controversy is unseemly when the negotiations are going on. So, let there be no more discussion on this. Let Shri Alagesan resume his seat.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not refer to the inter-State disputes, whatever they may be.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: That is exactly the point here.

MR. SPEAKER: That is not the point. If that is the point, I would not have allowed this Calling Attention Notice. Shri Lakkappa's point is correct. I allowed this because

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the subject was the scarcity conditions in the Cauveri delta as a result of inadequate water. Please confine yourself to that. Do not go into the Inter-State dispute and do not go into the history.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Sir, I am grateful to you.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, I bow to your ruling.

It has been admitted in the statement that there is not less than 36 TMC water in Krishnaraja Sagar and 16 TMC in Kabini. There is no mention about Hemavati, but we are told that there is 4 TMC water there.

SHRI N. SHIVAPPA (Hassan): This is another encroachment.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, I should not be interrupted like this I want your protection.

MR. SPEAKER: I would request the other hon. Members to leave it to the Minister to reply. Why should they take up his role?

SHRI O V. ALAGESAN: It comes to 56 TMC of water. What is the requirement of the ayacut in Karnataka? It is a very relevant question. The hon. Minister was very kind enough to make a remark that when there are scarcity conditions, they should be equally shared by the States concerned. If any sacrifice has to be made because of want of rain in the catchment area, the sacrifice has to be made equally by both Karanataka and Tamil Nadu. This will be a very reasonable proposition. Supposing they do not grant even that and Karanataka wants water for the irrigation of the entire ayacut, what is the total water required by Karnataka? We are told that they require only 20 TMC of water. As it is, there is 56 TMC of water.

The area that has to be cultivated in the Tanjore delta has been reduced from 16 lakhs to 12 lakhs of acres, according to the statement. This is the time when there is transplantation of *kuruvai*, a short-term crop. That crop is going to last only for a few months. There used to be *kuruvai* crop over half a million acres. Now only a lakh of acres are transplanted with *kuruvai*. Then, more than a million acres used to be transplanted with *samba* crop, because we used to get that much water. Now I do not want a sister State to adopt what is called the dog in the manger policy. When there is shortage of irrigation water, they should equally share it. It is a well-known principle. So, I would suggest: let them keep 20 TMC of water for their requirements, for irrigating their ayacut. They have got 56 TMC of water with them. Why not let out the balance after their requirements? If, God willing, there are rains, we will not draw the full quota. There were years when even in September it used to rain and the Cauveri was in floods. So, it is quite possible that there may be rains and we may not be left to depend on this water alone. While the rest of the country is being flooded, and in our very doorstep the Yamuna is swallowing chunks of Delhi, it is very unfortunate that the Kaveri is rather dry So, let them keep as much water as they want for irrigating their Ayacut and let them allow the rest of the water to this Ayacut, which is the oldest and has been there for 2,000 years, so that it may be protected.

SHRI KEDAR NATH SINGH: He is a very senior Member of the House and I am really very much educated by his observations, but because the talks are still going on, I am sure the hon. Members can wait for a few hours more and they will get the result, as I am very hopeful. Therefore, I would not like to go into any controversy as to whose share should be more or less. As there is shortage, that should also be shared equitably. Therefore, at this stage I can only say: let us wait for some time more for the discussions to be completed.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: He is referring to the long-term agreement, but what about the short-term arrangement?

MR. SPEAKER: We go to the next item.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM (Tiruchirapalli): I want to make a submision to you. I suggest that you allot some time for a discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: No discussion on calling attention.

12.27 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

FIFTY-THIRD REPORT

SHRI NIHAR LASKAR (Karimganj) I beg to present the Fifty-third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the Ministry of Education, Social Welfare and Culture (Department of Education)—Educational facilities for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territory of Delhi.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

TWENTY-NINTH REPORT

SHRI S. M. SIDDAYYA (Chamarajanagar): I beg to present the Twenty-ninth Report of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House.

12.28 hrs.

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EXTENSION OF DURATION) SECOND AMENDMENT BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (DR. V. A. SEYID MUHAMMAD): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the further extension of the duration of the present Legislative Assembly of the State of Kerala.

MR SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the further extension of the duration of the present Legislative Assembly of the State of Kerala."

The motion was adopted.

DR. V. A. SEYID MUHAMMED: I introduce the Bill.

CONSTITUTION (FORTY-THIRD AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATTIVE REFORMS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI OM MEHTA: I introduce the Bill.

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*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 26-8-76.

FIFTH SCHEDULE TO THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. BHAHMANANDA REDDY): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Fifth Schedule to the Constitution of India.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Fifth Schedule to the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: I introduce the Bill.

CENTRAL SALES TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE INCHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKERJEE): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is.

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956"

The motion was adopted

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKERJEE: I introduce† the Bill

APPROPRIATION (NO. 6) BILL,* 1976

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of money out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amount spent on a service during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1974 in excess of the amount granted for that service and for that year.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is.

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of money out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amount spent on a service during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1974, in excess of the amount granted for that service and for that year."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI. I introduce† the Bill.

I beg to move:††

"That the Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of money out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amount spent on a service during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1974 in excess of the amount granted for that service and for that year, be taken into consideration."

The Bill arises out of an excess expenditure (charged) of Rs. 1305 incurred in satisfaction of court decree in Grant No. 49—Police for 1973-74. As the explanatory note below the 'Demand for Excess Grant' gives the facts of the case, I will not dwell on them.

With these words, I move.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bil to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of money out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amount spent on a service during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1974, in excess of the amount granted for that service and for that year, be taken into consideration."

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*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 26-8-76.

†Introduced with the recomendation of the President.

SHRI HARI SINGH—not here; anybody else who wants to speak on this Appropriation Bill? No.

The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of money out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amount spent on a service during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1974, in excess of the amount granted for that service and for that year, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: We now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That Clauses 2 and 3 the Schedule, Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3, the Schedule, Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

12.34 hrs.

LABOUR PROVIDENT FUND LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL

MR. SPEAKER: We now take up the Bills for consideration and passing Shri Raghunatha Reddy.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): I beg to move:*

"That the Bill further to amend the Coal Mines Provident Fund, Family Pension and Bonus Schemes Act, 1948, the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952, the Wealth-tax Act, 1957 and the Income-tax Act, 1961, be taken into consideration."

This is a simple Bill intended to replace an Ordinance promulgated on the 17th July, 1976. The provisions of the Bill amend the Provident Fund Acts, namely, the Coal Mines Provident Fund, the Family Pension and Bonus Act, 1948 and the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952. By virtue of these amendments, Government are vested with the powers to introduce yet another social security scheme to the workers covered by the two enactments, numbering about 84 lakhs. The new Scheme is called the Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme. Such a Scheme is in operation already in case of Central Government servants. About this Scheme, the Finance Minister during the course of the Budget Speech has already referred to it. In pursuance of that, an Ordinance has been issued. Now, the Bill seeks to replace the Ordinance.

The Deposit Linked Insurance Schemes provide insurance cover to the employees covered by the Coal Mines Provident Fund and the Employees Provident Fund Acts without payment of any premium by such employees. The insurance cover is linked to the amount lying in deposit in the provident fund to the credit of the employees concerned. The salient feature of the Scheme is that in the event of the death of an employee, his dependants would be entitled to receive an additional payment equivalent to three years' average balance at the credit of the deceased employee in the provident fund account. In order to make him eligible to these benefits, the condition is that his provident fund balance should not be less than Rs. 1000. The upper limit of the benefit has been prescribed at Rs. 10,000. For determining the average balance of the provident fund,

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri Raghunatha Reddy]

the employees' share as well as the employers' share together with interest thereon shall be taken into account.

For getting the insurance benefit, the employee will not be required to make any contribution to the insurance fund. Contributions to the fund will be made by the employers and the Central Government in the ratio of 2:1. The two schemes will be administered by the respective Boards of Trustees constituted under the Coal Mines Provident Fund and the Employees Provident Funds Acts. The cost of aministration of these two schemes is also to be borne by the employers and the Central Government in the ratio of 2:1.

The Deposit Linked Insurance Schemes have been published on 28th July, 1976 and they have been brought into force with effect from the 1st August, 1976. The contributions by the employers and Government have been fixed at 0.5 per cent and 0.25 per cent respectively of the wage bill. The contributions towards administrative charge has been fixed at 0.10 per cent and 0.05 per cent respectively.

The introduction of this Scheme is another milestone in the progress of social security measures for the weaker sections of the society. I am glad to say that this has been welcomed by the working class. I hope that this Bill would be unanimously welcomed by this august House.

With these words, I commed the Bill for the consideration of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:—

"That the Bill further to amend the Coal Mines Provident Fund, Family Pension and Bonus Schemes Act, 1948, the Employees' Provident Fund and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952, the Wealth-tax Act, 1957 and the Income-tax Act, 1961, be taken into consideration."

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Burdwan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we certainly welcome this Bill. The proposals which have been incorporated in this will go some way towards alleviating the distress of the families of the deceased workmen. Here I would like to make one or two suggestions, if I could, with regard to this Bill and the proposals incorporated in it and also about the general working of the Provident Fund organization in this country.

So far as exemption provision is concerned, our experience is that, in many cases, so far as the parent Act is concerned, either exemption is given without properly taking into consideration the interests of the working class or in many cases where the workmen enjoy better facilities, exemption is not granted. This is a matter which I request the hon. Minister to look into, because this is a grievance which is being made by the working class and the trade unions repeatedly. Therefore, the whole basis of the grant of exemption requires to be studied properly. I do not know whether there are any rules or guidelines for granting exemptions or not. Without those guideline, the exemption that is granted in many cases may not be appropriate or desirable and in many cases exemptions which should have been given are not given. I would like the hon. Minister to tell us as to how this exemption is granted or grant of exemption is considered, whether the views of the trade unions are taken into consideration or not.

The main provision of this Bill is that, in the event of death of a workman, some life insurance money will be paid. Certainly, it is a very good proposal and we say that this is a step in the right direction; we are happy that the hon. Minister has brought forward this measure, and we do not mind an Ordinance being issued

for a social measure like this—but not for MISA and things like that. But the question I would like to ask is this. When a fund is being created for providing insurance cover to the family members of the deceased workmen, why should a workman not get the benefit of it if he retires? If the money is already put in that account, why should he not get the benefit of that? So far as the main Bill is concerned, it does not give any indication as to the proposed working of the scheme; we have to find it from somewhere, i.e., from the Statement of Objects and Reasons. I would like to know this. If the employer has brought out his money and kept it in a fund and if the Government is making a contribution to it, why should the worker not get the benefit of it if, suppose, he does not die during his employment but retires, superannuates or leaves the job without any blame on his part? The maximum amount is just Rs. 16,000 as it is intended to be provided under the scheme. This is my request to the hon. Minister, to let us know as to what is the principle behind it. Because, if you call it an insurance, it is life insurance. Survival does not mean forfeiture of the amount. I would have liked the Bill to indicate a little more broadly—because there is no indication in the main body of the Bill itself except 'what may be provided in the scheme' —as to what is the basis on which the payment is to be made, what are the limits of insurance amount, what are the obligations with regard to that, entitlement and so on; I would have liked greater details being mentioned in the Bill.....

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: The scheme has been published in the Gazette.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I have noticed that the scheme has been published; I am not contesting that But I was seeing the body of the Bill. It does not contain anything. We find from the Statement of objects and Reasons as to how this scheme is intended to be worked out or how the Act is intended to be worked out. I do not mind if you want to rely on subordinate legislation. I do not oppose it but some indication of the legislative intention should be there because the scheme is to carry out what the legislature intends it to do. Therefore, this is a very vague Bill in that sense. Everything is left to the scheme. But I take it and I am not doubting that the Government has no intention to really carry it out. That is not my intention at all. But I say that these are matters where the Act itself should contain the basic guidelines for the purpose of laws like this.

So far as Bills like this are concerned, these are welcome measures. But our apprehension is about the implementation of it because of our experience in the Provident Fund scheme and the Family Pension scheme. We know what huge arrears are outstanding. There are serious complaints about the way the Act is being implemented and worked out, that the benefits are not being received and that the statements are not being supplied or prepared. It is very easy to say that we are trying to take steps. That is not the answer that will satisfy anybody. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the amount of the outstanding provident fund. It is a very unhappy state of affairs. Even in Government statutory corporations and government undertakings there are huge amounts of arrears. There I am trying to utilise the opportunity of finding it out from the hon Minister. Is he satisfied himself about the functioning of the provident Fund organization in this country? why should there be such huge arrears? If I am not mistaken, I was reading just one press cutting which says "Rs. 26 crores from Bharat Coking Coal."

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: It has been paid.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Fortunately it has been paid It has

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

been recently paid But that was allowed to accumulate. That was an unhappy state of affairs. Certainly we will expect that government undertakings should not keep them in arrears.

But what about the huge private sector in this country? You have allowed the private sector to grow and prosper at the cost of the working class in many sectors and this is the one sector where the provident fund law is a social welfare legislation, we want it and we are thanking you for bringing such a proposal. But how do you implement? Is the benefit really reaching the person for whom it is intended? Therefore, merely passing laws or ordinances or so many schemes would not do. It requires a very serious approach in the matter. Now, what are the steps taken for real implementation? Why should the arrears be allowed to accumulate? There are many ways I know and I can tell you from my own experience. The other day some workers came to me saying that their employer has been fined an there is an order of imprisonment against him. A curious situation. The workers come to me and say, 'If he goes to jail, the factory will be closed and 200 people will be out of employment.' I do not know. But these are the difficulties in the working. The money that has been allowed to accumulate in arrears in this case was about Rs.2 lakhs. They say, 'The wages that we get we would not get if our employer goes to person These are the difficulties. A trade union leader came to me and approached me saying, 'kindly see if you could help us If the employer goes to jail, the factory will be closed and 200 people will be out of emplyment (they say) because of lack of orders We know that the arrears are there but because of lack of orders we are not functioning properly.' They are supplying to the railways and the railways are not placing orders. These are the difficulties. But, Sir, I am not here passing judgment whether in a particular case the employer is responsible or the working class has in any way contributed to that. But the question is that there is scope for improvement and the way it is being done, I do not think, anybody is really satisfied. Kindly tell us what are the arrears. Why are the arrears allowed to accumulate? What are the deterrent steps taken ? I would like to know whether any benefit is being given to these concerns where provident fund is allowed to accumulate and is in arrears and whether any money from the Government is paid to them in any matter whatsoever Then why not stop payment of government monies to such employees?

These are matters which are troubling us. Is there any inaction on the part of the government organisations which have been set up to over-see the implementation and proper working of this legislation? You have brought in another type of scheme which is good, another new fund which is being created. That is good. But if the situation in regard to these funds is, the same, then, the workers do not get any benefit. In the case of the death of a person, say, Rs. 10,000 is to be paid; how long are his dependents to wait to get this money?

SHRI M. GOPAL REDDY (Nizamabad): It should not take more than 10 days.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: For once at least he is right; I agree with him It should be paid in 10 days Many good proposals are scuttled because of lackadaisical implementation. Many good schemes are frustrated because of improper approach. Many good proposals remain in paper because some people are allowed not to be touched, who should have been touched.

I know that the hon. Minister is concerned for the working people in spite of what he may have to do from time to time with regard to various proposals like bonus. But so far as this Bill is concerned we would like him to take the House and the country into

confidence and tell us what are the arrears, what he proposes to do and all these things. The beneficiaries under the scheme should get these benefits.

With these words, I support the principle behind this Bill.

श्री राम सिंह भाई (इन्दौर) : श्रीमान्, इस बिल का मैं हार्दिक स्वागत करता हूं और मन्त्री जी को बराबर बधाई देता हूं। मन्त्री माने में यह श्रमिकों का कल्याणकारी बिल है, और आप ऐसा बिल अपने जीवन में कभी नहीं लाये होंगे। इतना सुन्दर यह बिल है।

मुझे इस बिल के बारे में कुछ शंकायें है जिनका मैं समाधान चाहता हूं क्योंकि मुझे श्रमिकों को समझाना पड़ता है और कुछ ऐसी बातें है जिनका स्पष्टीकरण जरूरी है। एक बात तो यह है कि बीमा की रकम प्राप्त करने के लिये जिसका बीमा होगा उसके द्वारा वारिस के नाम निर्देशन की बात कही गई है कि किसे मिलेगा। आप इन बातों को छोड़ दीजिये, केवल एक बात लीजिये कि उसका सही वारिस कौन है, और उसी को यह रकम मिलनी चाहिये। सही वारिस वही हो जिस को कानून के अनुसार सरकार ने माना हो। नहीं तो बहुत से आलतू फालतू के लोग अपना नाम निर्देशन करा लेते हैं, और कितनी ही बार ऐसा हुआ है। इसका मैं खुलासा चाहता हूं कि उनके वारिस को ही मिलेगा।

दूसरी बात यह कि आपने 3 वर्ष के औसत की रकम के बराबर ब्याज सहित रकम बतायी है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं श्रमिक की मृत्यु से तीन वर्ष पहले जो रकम उसके प्रोवीडेंट फण्ड में जमा रही हो और उसमें मालिक द्वारा मिलाई जाने वाली रकम प्लस ब्याज, यह रकम उसके वारिस को मिलेगी? या जब से श्रमिक का प्रोवीडेंट फण्ड कटना शुरू हुआ है और उसमें मिलाई जाने वाली मालिक की रकम तथा ब्याज, इस सारी की सारी रकम जो जमा है उसका औसत श्रमिक के वारिस को मिलेगा? इसका खुलासा होना चाहिये।

आपने नियम बनाये हैं कि प्रोवीडेंट फण्ड रकम मे से किस किस काम के लिये लोन दे सकते हैं। आपने उसमें भी रखा है कि प्रोवीडेंट फण्ड की जो रकम होगी और श्रमिक की खुद की जो रकम होगी उसमें से मकान बनाने के लिये रकम दी जा सकती है। इस के अलावा लड़की की शादी, लड़के की पढाई, लम्बी बीमारी के लिए और कारखाने के कुछ समय के लिए बन्द होने पर बेकार होने की स्थिति में उसमें से रकम दी जा सकती है। वह रकम मजदूर को लोन के तौर पर दी जाती है, उसका ब्याज लिया जाता है और हर महीने उस रकम की किस्त में से काटी जाती है। प्रश्न यह है कि क्या उस रकम को मजदूर की जमा की हुई रकम माना जायेगा, या यह माना जायेगा कि मजदूर द्वारा वह रकम निकाल ली गई है वह रकम उसको उधार दी जाती है और अगर वह उसको जमा नहीं कराता है तो उसको प्राविडेंट फण्ड में से माइनस किया जायेगा। इसलिए यह उचित है कि उस रकम को जमा की हुई रकम माना जाये।

सेवा-निवृत्ति की उम्र कहीं 60 बरस है, कहीं 62 बरस है और कहीं 58 बरस है। माडल स्टैंडिंग आर्डर्ज के अनुसार सभी प्रदेशों में सब इण्डस्ट्रीज में एक ही उम्र नहीं रखी हुई है। एक ही प्रदेश में अलग अलग इण्डस्ट्रीज में अलग अलग उम्र रखी गई है। ओवरएज होने के कारण यदि श्रमिक सेवा-निवृत्त होता है तो बीमा योजना की रकम उसको नहीं मिलेगी। यह सोच कर कि यह रकम उसको मिलने वाली नहीं है, कहीं वह आत्म-हत्या न कर ले। मैंने ऐसी घटनायें देखी हैं कि आदमी पैसा लेने के लिए जानबूझ कर एक्सिडेंट कर लेते हैं। अगर मजदूर गलत काम करता है, तो मुझे बुरा लगता है। हमारा

[श्री राम सिंह भाई]

काम यह है कि उसको इस बात से रोका जाये कि वह पैसा लेने के लिए अपना अंग-भंग न करले। ऐसी घटनाओं को रोकने के लिए यह व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए कि सेवा-निवृत्त होने पर रकम का अमुक हिस्सा उसकी पेंशन के तौर पर उसे मिलता रहेगा।

जहां तक फ़ैमिली पेन्शन का सम्बन्ध है, 60 बरस की उम्र में सेवा-निवृत्त होने पर ही आदमी पूरी रकम पाने का पात्र होता है। उससे कम उम्र में वह पूरी रकम का पात्र नहीं होता है। लेकिन माडल स्टैण्डिंग आर्डर्ज अनुसार सब प्रदेशों में सेवा-निवृत्ति की उम्र एक सी नहीं रखी गई है। इसलिए माडल स्टैंडिंग आर्डर्ज में यह जोडना चाहिए कि सेवा-निवृत्ति की उम्र 60 साल से कम नहीं होनी चाहिए। ऐसा करने पर जहां कम उम्र रखी हुई है; वहां भी 60 साल रखना पडेगा। इस समय स्थिति यह है कि चूंकि 60 साल की उम्र होने पर ही आदमी पूरी रकम पाने का पात्र होता है, इसलिए जब कोई आदमी 58 साल की उम्र में सेवा-निवृत्त किया जाता है तो वह पूरी रकम पाने का पात्र नहीं होता है। यह कानून की कमजोरी है, जिस को दूर किया जाना चाहिए।

यह विधेयक बहुत सुन्दर और बढ़िया है। इस सम्बन्ध में वैल्थ टैक्स और इनकम टैक्स से छूट देने के लिए मैं मन्त्री महोदय को बधाई देता हूं और इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूं।

DR RANEN SEN (Barasat): Sir, like the previous speakers, I do not want to oppose the Bill.

While supporting this, I must say a few words. The hon Minister stated that this is a simple Bill. I cannot agree with him that this is a simple Bill. The principles behind this Bill are not as simple as it appears to be. Both the speakers have mentioned about how the Provident Fund Act has been implemented in our country.

There has been a very big demand from the coal mine workers—the colliery workers—against the implementation of the Coal Mines Provident Fund Act, the pension scheme etc.

In this House, we have several times discussed about the difficulties the workers are experiencing in regard to the Coal Mines Provident Fund and the other Provident Fund. Shri Chatterjee has asked for the total amount of outstanding dues I want to make this clear further Since the Provident Fund is a contributory fund, I want to know how much of the workers' dues have not been paid to the Fund and how much of the employers' contribution has not been deposited in the Fund. What are the actual dues on these two counts so that we come to know the total outstanding dues? In regard to the Coal Mines Provident Fund also I want that these figures be given to the House so that the House could satisfy itself that after the last amendment of the Provident Fund Act there has been some improvement in the situation

I have to say this not only because of our past experience with the Coal Mines Provident Fund and the General Provident Fund, but also in view of what has happened very recently with regard to the Compulsory Deposit Scheme money.

We are afraid of all these Funds and other funds which the Government create. It is quite known to the Minister and to the House that in regard to the money that was deducted on account of CDS, as yet the employers have not got the part of the DA they have to get by the 15th July, an amount to the tune of Rs. 16 crore odd. Therefore, we have a very bad experience of the functioning of the government institutions, of the functioning of the Provident Fund organisation including the Coal Mines Provident Fund and now the latest scandal about the CDS. Hence I would utter

a word of caution here. I want those figures.

Then I want to say a few words about one or two points contained in the Bill. In clause 14, under 11C(1), exemption has been given to certain units. No exemption has been given to other organisations. By the way, I must state here that certain big organisations like coal had not paid the CDS money that they had collected from the workers two days back that was to the tune of more than Rs. 4 crores. Here it is stated in 3(a):

> "... the employer in relation to such Coal mine shall, in relation to the benefits in the nature of life assurance, to which any such person or class of persons is entitled, or any insurance fund, maintain such accounts, submit such returns, make such investment, provided for such facilities for inspection and pay such inspection charges ....."

It means that in the case of the factories or mines in the exempted category, the fund they had built up according to their own insurance scheme will be kept with them

I am opposed to this. I find that the three biggest business houses of the Jute mills like Bajorias, Goenka and Bird have not paid CDS money deposits to the tune of Rs. 1.56 crores.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member may continue after Lunch.

13 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after lunch at three minutes past fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

LABOUR PROVIDENT FUND LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL—*Contd.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Dr. Ranen Sen may continue.

DR. RANEN SEN: I was speaking on clause 14. I said that the funds with the employers, even though they may be in the exempted category, should vest in the government through a suitable agency. The latest experience of C.D.S. has emboldened me to make this suggestion.

In the new section 11C(3) (c), it is said:

> "shall, where any such person leaves his employment and obtains re-employment in any other coal mine, transfer within such time as may be specified in this behalf by the Central Government, the amount of accumulations to the credit of that persons in the insurance fund...." etc.

This holds good in regard to provident fund also. The idea and motive is very good, but I doubt whether this transference of the amount of accumulations to the credit of the person in the insurance fund will ever be made.

This is my apprehension. Again, section 14(5) reads:

> "Where any exemption granted under sub- section (1) of sub-section (2) is cancelled, the amount of accumulations to the credit of every employee to whom such exemption applied, in the insurance fund of the Coal mine in which he is employed shall be transferred within such time and in such manner as may be specified in the Insurance Scheme to the credit of this account in the Insurance Fund."

It is not good to place too much of confidence on the employers who have defaulted many time in the past, very recently in the case of CDS. Therefore,

[Dr. Ranen Sen]

a proper agency has to be built up and this may be transferred to that agency, or to the Provident Fund Commissioner.

Then, some provisions in the Third Schedule of this Bill create some apprehensions. Item No. 6 reads:

> "The manner in which the amount due to the nominee or the member of the family of the employee under the scheme is to be paid including a provision that the amount shall not be paid otherwise than in the form of a deposit in a savings bank account, in the name of such nominee or member of family, in any corresponding new bank specified in the First Schedule . . . . ."

This is not bad, generally speaking. But suppose a worker dies and his family is entitled to get this amount of Rs. 10,000 or a little less. Under this section that money will be deposited in a savings bank account in the name of his family or nominee Suppose his family needs this money very badly for some purpose Under this Schedule there is no provision to pay the amount immediately in case his family needs it urgently to meet some unavoidable expenditure, like payment of house rent or grocers' bill or a creditor's bill. When an earning member is dead there is no income for his family, there may be many occasions when they would be needing money immediately. If the money is deposited in the savings bank and it cannot be easily withdrawn, what happens in such contingencies? Therefore, there should be some provision whereby they could get the money in cash immediately, in certain specified circumstances.

The last para of the Statement of objects and Reasons says:

> "The Bill seeks to replace the Ordinance with modification that the Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme would also apply to the employees of establishments which were exempted from the operation of the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme."

I am not able to understand how it would operate to them.

As Shri Chatterjee said, the whole question is how the scheme functions, how it is implemented. All the schemes should be very simple if the workers are really to be the beneficiaries of such schemes. With these words, I support the Bill and I congratulate the Minister for bringing forward such an important social welfare legislation.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): I am extremely thankful to all the Members who have participated in the debate and also extended their wholehearted support. It is very gratifying that even Mr Somnath Chatterjee has come forward to welcome it

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I have always supported good legislation

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: Regarding the last point raised by Dr. Ranen Sen paragraph 6 of the Statement of Objects and Reasons reads:

> "The Bill seeks to replace the Ordinance with the modification that the Deposit-linked Insurance Scheme would also apply to the employees of establishments which were exempted from the operation of the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme"

As a result of certain drafting lacuna in the ordinance that was issued, it was felt that the undertakings which were exempted under the Provident Fund Act and the Family Pensions Act might not be covered by this Deposit-linked Insurance Scheme So, in order to see that such a doubt is removed and that even those categories of undertakings are covered, this has been specifically provided in the Bill.

Therefore, this exemption is different from the exemption granted under the Provident Fund Act. Ex-

emption will be granted only in such circumstances when the authorities concerned are satisfied that the scheme of insurance provided by the undertaking or company and the provisions thereof are much better than the scheme which is provided under this Act. The interests of the trade unions will also be taken into consideration, and I think trade Unions would be consulted before any such exemption is granted. Wherever exemption is not granted under the provisions of this law, the Insurance Fund will be like that contemplated under the Coal Mines Act.

As far as this insurance scheme is concerned, no worker need pay any contribution at all. It is contribution paid by the employer and also the Government. What is required is that he must have at least Rs. 1,000 as deposit money subsisting on the day on which the accident or the misfortunate takes place, and this Rs. 1,000 consists of his own contribution plus the emp'oyer's contribution. The worker will then be entitled to an amount equal to the amount in his deposit subject to a maximum of Rs. 10,000.

Shri Ram Singh Bhai raised a very interesting question about the successors who are entitled to this benefit of the insurance amount. I would like to draw his attention to Para 22 of the Scheme published in the Gazette on 28th July, 1976 which deals with the question of the nomination of successors. As it is a published document, which must be readily available to hon. Members, I do not want to burden them with details.

Then, this para provides the answer to the question of nomination; and in the absence of nomination, the question of succession; in what manner the insurance amount will have to be divided or shared by the beneficiaries, all this is fully stated in para 22 of the scheme. I do not wish to burden you, Sir, and the hon. Members by giving the details or reading out the exact para 22 of the Scheme itself.

Certain general questions have been raised by Shri Somnath Chatterjee and also by Dr. Ranen Sen about the general working of the Provident Fund organisation and also how the provident fund schemes are administered both under the Coal Mines Provident Fund Act as well as the Employees' Provident Fund and Family Pension Act. Having regard to the magnitude of the task and the amount involved, the total amount of money under the Employees' Provident Fund and Family Pension Act, under the un-exempted category comes to Rs. 1357.97 crores and under the exempted category, it comes to Rs 1597.14 crores. The total amount that has now accrued to the credit of the fund, under the Provident Fund and Family Pension Act, comes to Rs. 2955.11 crores. In this regard, the amounts outstanding that are still due are of the order of about Rs. 19 crores under the exempted category and also an equal amount under the un-exempted category....

SHRI SOMNATH CATTERJEE: From both the employers' side and the employees' side?

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: This division is not available. It can be taken for the purpose of argument that this amount represents both the contribution of the employers and the contribution of the employees because, once the employer has not deposited his amount, naturally he must have taken the entire amount in his hands. It is only a presumption for the sake of argument that I am trying to provide.

In this case out of nearly Rs. 3000 crores, about Rs. 40 crores are still to be accounted for. As against this, as on 30-6-76, the arrears of provident fund contribution in respect of unexempted category amounted to

[Shri Raghunatha Reddy]

Rs. 19.22 crores. Out of this, Rs. 7.78 crores represent the employees' share of contribution and Rs. 11.4 crores as the employers' share of contribution As many as 657 cases have been launched under Section 406/ 409 of the IPC This information has already been given to the House this morning itself by my colleague while answering certain supplementary questions.

In this regard, as I submitted to the House on a number of occasions, the National Textile Corporation which has taken over a number of sick mills has to pay a substantial amount of money. I have held some discussions with the officers concerned. We have worked out some arrangement by which they will be able to pay the current dues and that they are regularly paid With respect to the past dues, prior to take-over and after take-over but before nationalisation, it is in the realm of a legal doubt and we have requested the Law Ministry to deal with the matter and advise us in what manner we have to proceed

With regard to the Coal Mines Provident Fund, I do not know the exact figure as on today. But two or three months back, a few months back, the amount due was Rs 26 crores I am happy to tell the House that the coal mines have paid Rs. 26 crores and cleared their arrears upto that point of time

Having regard to the situation and, specially, the point made by Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, in case we take a criminal action against the employer, the trade union itself sometimes gets agitated on the question of any criminal action being taken against the employer. As a result of the criminal action being taken by the Government against the employer, if he is sent to jail, the trade unions are afraid that the establishment itself may be closed resulting in unemployment of hundreds of workers. This is also a human aspect that will have to be taken into consideration. Especially in Calcutta, a number of big business houses, particularly jute industry and other big industries, which will have to pay a substantial amount of provident fund, have filed writ petitions in the High Court and got stay orders against any action being taken against them. Sometimes, even though the amount involved may be huge, the High Court has allowed the money to be paid on instalment basis and in certain cases, a blank stay order has been given. We are trying our best to get the stay orders vacated. Mr. Chatterjee knows the difficulties of getting a stay order vacated in the Calcutta High Court more than I do....

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: That is so because of lack of will on the part of Government lawyers. We do not find them when this type of cases are to be heard. So, do not make anybody as a scapegoat. It is there in the whole system.

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: I am glad he has agreed that the system is bad While I do not want to pay compliments to all the lawyers who appear on behalf of the Government, it is our experience that sometimes even a copy of the petition filed in the Calcutta High Court is not served on the other side for six or ten months It is a very difficult exercise for our law officers to get a copy of the petition, let alone getting a stay order vacated.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You have not been informed correctly.

DR. RANEN SEN: The Calcutta High Court has given stay orders in respect of Bajoria, Goenka and Bird & Co. who have failed to pay the CDS money to the tune of Rs. 1.56 crores.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: In those cases, immediate steps should have been taken by Government lawyers to have them vacated. I am not saying that the High Court has rightly done it. If you feel that a wrong order has been passed, you should take immediate steps to have them vacated. That is my grievance.

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: I do not want to prolong this controversy, because, Mr. Somnath Chatterjee is an experienced lawyer. But I must say with great regret that our experience in regard to rules of procedure that govern, especially service of copy of petition on the respondent, has not been so happy as my friend's experience which makes him say these. Nevertheless, Government is taking every step, and the arrears are coming down; having regard to the magnitude of the problem, Rs. 3,000 crores, the arrears are very insignificant, though as far as the workers are concerned, it is quite a significant amount. Government is taking every step possible, and I can assure the House that every step would be taken in order to see that these arrears are collected. Mr. Somnath Chatterjee also knows the difficulties involved in that. When the sick mills are taken over, naturally the paramount interests of the Government would be to see that the persons who are employed there continue to be in employment rather than collecting the money and getting the undertaking closed; even after compensation is paid and the amount is recovered, if the undertaking does not work, it is of no immediate consequence as far as the workers are concerned because their interest is to continue to remain in employment.

I do not want to take more time. I think, I have answered all the points that had been raised by my hon. friends. I once again thank all the hon. Members for the very warm welcome they have extended to this Bill.

DR. RANEN SEN: I had raised one important point in regard to money being deposited to the Savings Bank Account after the death of the worker. What would happen to that if the family wants that money immediately?

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: Clause 8 of the Third Schedule on page 6 of the Bill says:

> "The manner in which the amount due to the nominee or the member of the family of the employee under the scheme is to be paid including a provision that the amount shall not be paid otherwise than in the form of a deposit in a savings bank account...." etc.

This has provided the power to the Government to frame the scheme. This does not mean that, in every case it must be deposited in the Savings Bank Account. It will be done where it is considered necessary and in the interests of the nominee; for such cases, the power is given to deposit in the Savings Bank Account. I do not think Dr Ranen Sen should have any apprehension on this.

श्री राम सिंह भाई : मैंने जो दो महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न उठाये थे, जिन पर मैंने अधिक जोर दिया था उन शंकाओं का समाधान मन्त्री जी को करना चाहिए। मैंने यह प्रश्न उठाया था कि जो प्राविडेन्ट फंड की रकम जमा है उस रकम में से किसी श्रमिक ने लोन के तौर पर, अपना मकान बनाने के लिए, पढ़ाई के लिए, शादी विवाह के लिए, लम्बी बीमारी में इलाज के लिए या कारखाना बन्द हो जाता है तो दर्म्यानी तौर पर मदद के लिए रकम निकाली है तो इसको आप क्या मानेंगे जो तीन साल की रकम का एवरेज है उसमें आप इस रकम को भी मानेंगे या नहीं जो कि आपने इसको उधार दी है क्योंकि इस पर आप ब्याज लेते हैं और इसलिए इसकी यह रकम भी एक तरह से जमा है जैसे कि फिक्स्ड डिपाजिट्स के ऊपर लोन देने के बाद भी

[श्री रामसिंह भाई]

यह रकम जमा मानी जाती है हालांकि उस पर बैंक अधिक सूद ले लेती है। तो तीन साल के औसत में आप इस रकम को भी मानेंगे या नहीं ?

दूसरी बात यह है कि एक श्रमिक दस वर्ष से कारखाने में काम कर रहा है और दस वर्ष से उसका प्राविडेन्ट फण्ड कट रहा है, अगर वह मर जाता है तो केवल तीन वर्ष के अन्दर जितनी रकम जमा हुई है उसी के बराबर उसको मिलेगा या तीन वर्ष के अन्दर जितनी रकम उसकी कटती है और जो एम्प्लायर उसमें मिलता है उसके औसत के आधार पर मिलेगा ? यह बुनियादी चीजें हैं जिनका आप इस कानून में खुलासा करें।

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY For a person to become entitled to receive the benefit of the insurance scheme, he must have a minimum of Rs 1000 (*Interruptions*)

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER Mr Ram Singh Bhai, let him clarify He has only started

श्री राम सिंह भाई यह कोई जवाब

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY For a worker who is a member of the provident fund scheme to have the benefit of the insurance scheme under the provisions of this Bill, he must have Rs 1000 to his credit in the provident fund as a saving This Rs 1000 may consist of contribution made by the employer and also the employee Then only he will be entitled If he does not have this much amount standing to his credit, then he will not have the benefit of the insurance scheme

As far as advances are concerned, these are what are called non-refundable advances. Therefore, these cannot be taken into account for the purpose of calculating Rs. 1000

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: A meeting of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioners was held in May 1976 in Delhi—this is in reply to a question answered in the other House —where a decision was taking *inter alia*

(1) That the Regional Commissioners should immediately evolve a time-bound programme for clearance of arrears of annual statements of accounts and provident fund claims

(2) Annual account slips should be issued with greater speed.

May I know from the hon Minister whether these decisions have been implemented and at what stage of implementation are they at present?

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY I had a conference of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioners in order to discuss the problem of arrears outstanding and also the problem of accounts which the Provident Fund Commissioner has to give to the members I have appealed to all the Regional Provident Fund Commissioners that they must take a very active interest and enlist the co-operation of the people who are working in the Provident Fund Commissioner's office I had also appealed to the trade union leaders who are representing the workers and employees working in the provident fund organizations so that the trade unions' influence can be exercised and the Regional Provident Fund Commissioners can proceed to achieve the result of speeding up of the accounts being given to the workers who are members of the Provident Fund

Equally the Regional Provident Fund Commissioners have also been urged to see that the arrears are recovered as well as possible and expeditious action taken. I think if the hon. Member makes inquiries in the Calcutta office itself, he will notice that there is a considerable improvement and the accounts have been cleared to a large extent. Though the outstandings in the Calcutta office are of a high order, still there is a considerable work that has been done and I must thank the employees and also the trade union leaders who have helped us in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Coal Mines Provident Fund Family Pension and Bonus Schemes Act, 1948, the Employees, Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952, the Wealth-tax Act, 1957 and the Income-tax Act, 1961, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Clause-by-Clause discussion. There are no amendments given notice of. The question is:

"That Clauses 2 to 41, Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 41, Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

14.31 hrs.

ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL—Contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now we take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri A.C. George on the 24th August, 1976 namely:—

"That the Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Bhogendra Jha was on his legs on the last occasion. He is not present just now.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN (Tellicherry): He is just coming. You may call him again.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is some procedural difficulty if a member does not resume his speech. If he does not resume his speech, it is taken that he has concluded his speech. And if he is given a second chance, it will amount to a second speech on the same Bill. Therefore, that will present some procedural difficulties.—Now, Shri M. C. Daga.

श्री मूल चन्द डागा : (पाली) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, एसेन्शल कमोडिटीज बिल पास करने का एक उद्देश्य है कि देश में जीवन की आवश्यक वस्तुएँ उपभोक्ताओं को सरलता से और सही दामों पर मिल सकें । मैं एक बात कहना चाहता हूं--जब कभी भी इस सदन में में यह प्रश्न रखा जाता है तो हम को यह जवाब मिलता है कि यह राज्य का

[श्री मूलचन्द डागा]

विषय है और जो चीजें वितरित की जाती हैं वे राज्यों पर निर्भर हैं, लेकिन आज जो कानून आप बना रहे हैं यह केन्द्रीय सरकार बनाने जा रही है और इनका इम्प्लीमेन्टेशन राज्यों के द्वारा होगा, तहसील के लेवल पर या एस० डी० ओ० के लेवल पर इस कानून का अमल कैसे होगा--यह जरा देखने की बात है। कानून तो देश में ज्यादा से ज्यादा बनाये जा सकते हैं, लेकिन होता यह है कि इन कानूनों से छोटे-छोटे दुकानदार, छोटे-छोटे उत्पादन करने वाले लोग ज्यादा परेशानी में पड जाते हैं, नौकरशाही इसमें ज्यादा हावी हो जाती है। आप चाहे जितने कानून बना लें, लेकिन अगर जार्ज साहब यह समझते हैं कि कानून बन जाने के बाद समस्या हल हो जायेगी, मेरा अनुभव इसके बारे में भिन्न है। मैं तो यह देखता हूं कि इन कानूनों में जनता ज्यादा परेशानी में पड जाती है। मैं आप से यह ठीक बात कह रहा हूं---जब चीजों का ठीक से वितरण नहीं होता है तो हम ऐसा समझते हैं कि ऐसे कानून को पारित करके हम चीजों का वितरण ठीक कर लेंगे, लेकिन मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि इन कानूनों के जरिये छोटे-छोटे दुकानदार, छोटे-छोटे उत्पादन करने वाले किसान और दूसरे लोग परेशानी में पड जाते हैं और वे नौकरशाही के शिकार होते हैं, उन्हें बहुत ज्यादा दिक्कतें भुगतनी पडती हैं। मैं तो यह ठीक समझता हूं कि या तो सरकार सारे काम को अपने हाथ में ले ले तब तो कोई दिक्कत नहीं रहेगी, वरना कई बार ऐसा हुआ है कि ऐसे कानूनों के तहत छोटे-छोटे दुकानदारों को अपनी दुकानें बन्द करनी पडी हैं और गांव में वे चीजें नहीं मिल पाती हैं। इसलिये मैं तो यह चाहता हूं कि दुकानें बन्द हो जायं और सारा काम सरकार अपने हाथ में ले ले वरना उत्पादन करने वाले किसानों को काफी दिक्कत हो जायगी।

एक एक सैक्शन को आप देखें।

A new section 6E is being inserted providing for the court concerned from getting any order passed "with regard to the possession, delivery, disposal or distribution of such property".

कलैक्टर के अलावा आपने सब एग्जिक्टिव आफिसर्स को पावर्ज दे दी हैं।

No civil court will be in a position to pass any order.

सारी हकूमत किन के हाथ में होती है, एस० पी० के हाथ में एस० डी० ओ० के० हाथ में होती है। कोई धान या गेहू अपने घर तक ले जाना चाहता है तो उसको वे सीज कर सकते हैं।

He will not be allowed to go to the court of law and get an injunction. You have debarred him from going to any court of law.

मैं मानता हूं कि मीसा के अन्दर लोगों को रखा जाता है। इस कानून के अन्दर कोई आदमी अनाज ला रहा है, सामान ला रहा है और उसको जब्त कर लिया जाता है तो

You will debar him form going. to any court of law.

सिविल प्रोसीजर कोड में यह व्यवस्था है कि अगर कोई गवर्नमेंट सर्वेंट अपनी पावर्ज से बाहर जा कर काम करता है तो उसके खिलाफ प्रासीक्यूशन हो सकता है। इसमें किसी गवर्नमेंट सर्वेंट के खिलाफ कोई प्रासीक्यूशन नहीं हो सकता है। इतनी ज्यादा पावर्ज आपने इस एमरजेंसी में गवर्नमेंट सर्वेंट को दे दी है। इनका दुरुपयोग हो सकता है। हम जो संसद् सदस्य हैं उनको तकलीफ मालूम नहीं होती है। लेकिन जो छोटे-छोटे दुकानदार हैं उनको बहुत होंगी। उनको भ्रष्ट अफसरों का शिकार बनना पडेगा। उनकी बहियों, एकाउन्ट्स बुक्स को जब्त किया जा सकेगा।

According to the provisions under Sec 3 (ii) of the original Act, books of accounts and documents seized un-

dat the Act are to be returned to the persons from whom they had been seized. It is not proposed to retain the earlier documents and to empower the affected persons to make copies for their owen use.

अगर आपको लेनी है तो आप सर्टिफाइड कापीज लें। आपने कह दिया है कि सब बहियां जब्त कर लो। दो हजार की पृष्ठों बहियें और एकाउंट बुक्स हैं वह उनकी नकलें करें। फिर कब तक आप इनको अपने पास रखेंगे। रेलेवेंट डाकुमेंट्स की आपको सर्टिफाइड कापीज लेनी चाहिये न कि लेकर आप कह दें कि वह नकल करना चाहे तो कर ले।

Relevant documents seized under the Act are required to be returned to the persons. It is now proposed to retain the original documents.

सिविल कोर्टस में जब केस जाता था तो एकाउंट्स बुक्स और जो दूसरे डाकुमेंट्स होते थे उनकी रेलेवेंट जो एटरीज होती थी उनकी कापीज ली जाती थी लेकिन आपने इसको भी खत्म कर दिया है।

In page 3, cl. 4, what is this first amendment? You remove the words 'if satisfied'.

जिसकी जो इच्छा हो करे।

Instead of 'if satisfied', you want to put in 'may, if he thinks it expedient to do so'.

क्या जरूरी था यह सब्स्टीट्यूट करना? पहले आप ने रखा कि अगर किसी कलेक्टर या मजिस्ट्रेट को सेटिस्फेक्शन हो जाय कि यह आदमी होर्डिंग कर रहा है, मुनाफाखोरी कर रहा है तो उसके खिलाफ कार्यवाही की जा सकती थी। अब आप कहते है कि नहीं, अगर एक्सपीडिएट समझें। इतने अधिक अधिकार नहीं देने चाहियें। क्या आप सोचते हैं कि सारे कानून को बदल कर के देश के अन्दर चीजें सस्ती हो जायेंगी? मैं कहता हू कि आप सारी जगह फेयर प्राइस शौप्स कर लीजिये और इन तमाम एजेन्सीज को अबोयड कीजिये। लेकिन यह सम्भव नहीं है। फिर ऐसा कानून क्यों बनाते हैं जिससे लोगों को परेशानी हो। डेमोक्रेसी में रहने वाले आदमी को कानून से ज्यादा बाधा जायगा तो करप्शन फैलेगा।

अब उसकी कीमत क्या होगी? एक काश्तकार ने लेवी का नाज दे दिया है जिसके बारे में काश्तकार का कहना है कि उससे सस्ते दाम पर लिया जाता है, 105 रुपये के भाव से। लेकिन लेवी का देने के बाद भी अगर प्रोड्यूसर अपना माल बाजार में लायेगा तो उसकी कीमत वही होगी जो ऐग्रीकल्चर प्राइस कमीशन ने तय की है। यानी काश्तकार को अपने माल की कीमत तय करने का भी अधिकार नही रहा। यह उचित नहीं है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि आप किस प्रकार से उसका भाव तय करना चाहते है? इस कानून का मशा चाहे कुछ भी हो, आप कलेक्टर को हटाकर छोटे-छोटे अधिकारियों को पावर दे देंगे जिसका मिसयूज होगा, और दुकानदार दुकाने बन्द कर देंगे, फेयर प्राइस शौप्स आप की सब जगह हैं नहीं। कैसे काम चलेगा? इस कानून के जरिये आपने सरकारी कर्मचारियों को पूरा प्रोटेक्शन दे दिया है।

He cannot be prosecuted in any court neither can we go to any court of law.

इस प्रकार के कानून में हमें लाभ नही होगा। और ज्यादा सख्ती होने से छोटे काश्तकार को, छोटे व्यापारी को, सबको तकलीफ होगी।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I would like the pleasure of the House with regard to allocation of time to speeches. When we started on this Bill, we had a balance of 2 hours 45 minutes. Shri Daga has taken almost 15 minutes. That leaves us a balance of 2 hrs. 30 minutes. I have got 14 speakers on the list. Even if I give ten minutes to

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

each, it means 2 hrs. 20 minutes. That would leave the Minister barely ten minutes to reply. So I would request members to kindly keep that in mind.

SHRI K. C. Halder.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Jainagar): I had enquired and..

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You know the difficulty.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: I know. The earlier Bill had collapsed ...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, there is some procedural difficulty. We cannot change the rules like that.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: You are here ..,

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, no; the rules cannot just be changed like that.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: I have no grievance. I can speak after him.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is the least I can do. I had explained to Mr. Chandrappan the position. When a Member was on his legs and he was called and he did not resume his speech, it is taken that he has concluded his speech. If the Member comes up subsequently and seeks an opportunity to speak on that Bill, it will be a second speech allowed to him on that Bill and it is not permitted by the rules. That is the position.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Yesterday the Minister was there; I was not speaking; the Minister simply asked me: you begin now; tomorrow you can speak. That was his trouble yesterday. Mr. George was there. It was because of his insistence the Bill was taken up.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is between you and Mr. George; the Chair does not come in. Shri Krishna Chandra Halder.

*SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Ausgram): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Essential Commodities Act was first passed in 1955. The objective of the Bill was to have a State control on production, procurement, distribution of essential commodities among the poorer sections of the people and while doing so to maintain price stability by regulating trade and commerce of these commodities. There are 61 items in this list which are essential for mass consumption like foodgrains, sugar, kerosene oil, edible oil, textiles, etc. Unfortunately, right from the very beginning of the introduction of the Bill because of Government's lack of intention to implement it rigorously the prices of all these essential commodities have been going up year after year and even corrupt practices continued unabated In the year 1974 the Act of 1955 was amended on the recommendations of the Law Commission. The Commission had suggested penal measures and these were incorporated into the Bill to strengthen the hands of the Government to check hoarding, profiteering, black marketing and other allied malpractices. Today we are amending the Act of 1974 to introduce provisions which the Government feel will further strengthen their hands and ensure better distribution of essential commodities among the masses. On behalf of my party, the C.P.I. (M), I welcome this Bill but while doing so let me sound a word of caution to the Government that mere legislative change will not yield the desired result unless there is a fundamental change in Government's outlook and its economic policies.

Whenever we talk of distribution of essential commodities at reasonable price among the people the Government feel that the job is well done

*The original speech was delivered in Bengali.

if they can be made effective in the metropolises of Calcutta, Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Kanpur, etc. But can we really ignore the millions of village folk and the vast multitude of the population 60 per cent of whom live under poverty line and whose need for these commodities deserve to be given priority over other sections of the society. I am afraid the Government have not done much in this direction. The Government have passed Acts one after the other but they were not implemented to fulfil their objectives. The country is passing through an emergent situation. Two emergencies are running concurrently in the country today. The MISA has given unlimited powers to the Government to deal with the hoarders, profiteers and black marketeers rightly and squarely to maintain the price level and make things available to the common people. But what do we really find? Have the Government really succeeded in living up to their professed objectives of price control? On 25th of June, with great fanfare and publicity the Government celebrated the anniversary of the introduction of emergency in our country. While the Government was jubilating over the gains of emergency, the prices of essential commodities kept soaring high much against the publicity of successful implementation of the 20-point programme. It was really an irony that prices of some of the essential commodities should rise when the Government claimed that there was a bumper crop and there was enough in store to keep the price line under check. Let us take the case of edible oil. It was the Government's claim that there was a bumper crop of ground nuts and it was estimated to be 16.9 lakhs tons. Only a couple of days ago we discussed a calling attention motion in this House during the course of which it was pointed out that the price of ground nut oil had gone up in Maharashtra and there was a scarcity of this commodity in the State. Why should it happen? Take mustered oil. It was selling for Rs. 5 after emergency was introduced but today it is selling for Rs. 7.40 per K.G. This year we have a record production of wheat in our country and the estimate is in the neighbourhood of 114 million tons. Despite this good crop neither the producer nor the consumer has gained anything. There was a time when the cultivators of Punjab had to sell their wheat for Rs. 75 per quintal and it was truly a distress sale as there was none to lift their produce Much later the FCI came into the picture and offered the cultivators Rs. 105 for one quintal of wheat. Today the open market price of wheat in Delhi is between Rs. 165 and 180 per quintal. Where has the profit gone and who has appropriated it? The potato growers suffered equally in the matter. When the new crop came in the market in U.P. the price offered to the cultivators was between Rs. 12 and Rs. 14 per maund. In West Bengal the cultivators got Rs. 18 per maund. But soon the whole procured potatoes were put into the cold storages and the price started rising high and today in Delhi potato is selling for Rs. 1.20 per K G. In this way the cultivators are still being cheated and the hoarders and black marketeers are making huge profits while the Government keeps on harping about the gains of emergency. In the similar way the jute growers were also exploited. They did not get the remunerative price of their produce. Nasik is a very important centre for onions marketing. Today the cultivators have nearly one lakh quintals in their stock and they are not getting a remunerative price for their crop. The representatives of the onion growers had come to Delhi. The Deputy Leader of our party Shri Samar Mukerjee, had taken them to Mr. George, the Minister. I do not know what has happened thereafter but it is a fact that the Government was earning a good profit through export of onion at the rate of Rs. 300 per quintal. Similarly there was a bumper crop of mango but the people did not have enough to eat because most of it was

[Shri Krishna Chandra Halder]

exported to foreign countries to earn foreign exchange. Thus the Government, it seems, have embarked upon a policy which is export oriented. This is giving, no doubt, profits to the Government but the share of the profit is not perculating to the cultivators. Let us take pulses. In Delhi the price has gone up between 30 per cent to 70 per cent during the last one week. In West Bengal, there is a great scarecity of fish because of lack of imports from Bangladesh and the prices have gone up so high that it has become virtually impossible for the common man to afford it. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you also relish fish and know what it means to us and you can well realise our plight than anybody else. Therefore, Sir, without detailing the list any further where price rise has taken place during the last one year it would be sufficient to say that the Government have not been able to hold the price line and relieve the people of their difficulties. As I have already stated Sir, we appreciate the spirit of the Bill and in pursuance of this I would urge upon the Government to ensure that after the present Bill is passed they should be able to show real achievements in regard to procurement and distribution of the essential commodities to the people at a reasonable price instead of saying that they have succeeded in holding the price line in general.

I would not like to say in detail about the various provisions of the Bill. The time is short and the bell has been rung. I would only deal with that clause of the Bill wherein power is sought to be given to the Assistant Collector and even the S.D.O. for conducting searches in place of the Collector who alone was empowered to do it earlier. Another provision has also been made in this Bill whereby the action of officers conducting raides cannot be questioned in the courts of law. I must say that this provision of the Bill is not free from being misused by an unscrupulous officer, who may harass the small cultivators for his personal gains because he knows that he is immune from legal action. It is very necessary therefore that the Government should keep a watchful eye on such elements and see that this provision of the Bill is not misused.

In the end I must say that while the Government speaks of penal measures, mixed economy and socialistic ideologies, they by their own actions are supporting a capitalistic economy in our country. In the Socialist States of USSR, Rumania, Bulgaria and even in China there has been no price rise for the last two decades. Today the Government is thinking of bringing about a thorough change in our Constitution. The preamble of the Constitution is sought to be changed to include the words 'Socialism" and "Secularism" but I can tell the House very honestly that these verbal changes can never introduce socialism in our country unless there is a sea change in the Government's policy in regard to the economic matters The members of the Congress party can flatter Mrs Gandhi in hyperbolic terms, they can praise the 20-point programme to please her but these cannot bring down the prices unless the economic, and the political philosophy changes and the State structure is changed all together While supporting the spirit of the Bill I must conclude by cautioning the Government that if they really want to achieve success, they have to change their outlook and philosophy.

SHRI Y. S MAHAJAN (Buldana): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill. Certain amendments to the original Act became necessary because of the experience gained during the last one and a half years. The original Act provided for the regulation production, supply and distribution of essential commodities. The Amendment Bill proposes that the powers of the Collector may

be exercised by an Additional Collector or other officers, not below the rank of a Sub-Divisional Officer, if so authorised by the Collector. Further, it protects the officers exercising the powers under the Act from malicious and vexatious proceedings. These provisions have become necessary to intensify the drive against hoarders, blackmarketeers and profiteers.

The experience of the price rise during April, May and June this year has given us a big jolt and it has shown that the hoarders and profiteers will take advantage of any unfavourable situation. The monsoon was late this year. So, in spite of the bumper crop of foodgrains and the groundnuts, the prices were pushed up to an appreciable extent Timely action by the Government succeeded in bringing about again the downward trend of the price level.

15 hrs.

I am glad that the Government has come forward to make the provisions more stringent than before

Section 3 is sought to be amended to provide that a levy order issued in relation to foodgrains, edible oilseeds and oil may fix, on a graded basis, the quantity to be sold by the producers, having regard to the area held by, or under the cultivation of, the producers. This change was necessitated by the striking down of levy orders by the Orissa High Court

Finally, the Bill provides for the procedure and criteria for fixing the price in the case of levy or foodgrains, edible oilseeds and oil.

The Bill is a major amendment of the original Act, and seeks to put on a strong and sound basis the administrative structure necessary for its smooth functioning, by increasing the powers of the Collector and other officers as regards levy and price fixation and by protecting them from malicious and vexatious proceedings.

We have been trying to build up a public distribution system over a large number of years. Recently the problem acquired great urgency as a result of the inflationary spiral during 1972—74. Not only did we suffer from acute internal shortage of essential commodities, but also from raging inflation outside in most of the countries of the world. Only as a result of very severe and even draconian measures could we succeed in containing inflation and bringing down the price level. This was a heroic task. It was as difficult as lifting oneself by one's own boot straps. Simultaneously with credit control and distribution of foodgrains, efforts were made to raise production, and the result was that we had a bumper crop last year and prices in the market remained at a reasonable level. But during the last one week prices have begun to rise again.

The object of our economic policy, namely growth with social justice cannot be achieved unless we have a proper public distribution system on a permanent basis and Government takes responsibility for making available essential commodities and articles of mass consumption at reasonable prices. The well-being of the common man cannot be left to the free operation of the forces of supply and demand. Government must develop proper techniques and instruments for making the policy effective. During the last 15 or 20 years we have often improvised a public distribution system and then dismantled it when the crops were good. This has happened three times. I hope this will not happen again. The public distribution system cannot be, as the hon. Minister once said, a fire-fighting operation. It has to be on a permanent basis. It must also cover the whole gamut of operations, *viz* procurement, transport, storage and distribution. Hilly and backward areas are at a disadvantage as they are relatively inaccessible and transport expenses are heavy. So, Government has to see that the prices of

[Shri Y. S. Mahajan]

these commodities are the same every where irrespective of the transport cost involved.

Since co-operative institutions belong to the people and are democratic, they should be the main agency for the public distribution system It is true that there are some at the taluk and district levels which are very badly managed The management is often corrupt and fraudulent Severe action should be taken against them, but in general the co-operative system should be used We should have no objection to using the panchayat authorities, local government institutions and even private agencies where necessary and convenient

To stabilise the prices of essential commodities Government has to see that the prices of their inputs are stabilised Since most of the essential commodities are agricultural products, we have to see that the prices of fertilisers and pesticides are stabilised But in the last 1½ years while the prices of agricultural commodities have come down by 40 per cent the prices of fertilisers pesticides and other inputs required by the farmer have not gone down to the same extent The same applies to manufactured commodities Some manufactured commodities are in demand and they are produced for mass consumption The prices of inputs required for the manufacture of such commodities should also be stabilised If we control the prices of all commodities then we have to have an ordered economic system under which you will have an integrated and regulated price structure which can be the only basis of stability.

The public distribution system is, after all a system of conduit pipes. No distribution system can by itself increase the supply except to the extent that it removes black-marketing and profiteering Only to that extent, the public distribution system can improve the supply Beyond that, it has no effect. Unless you make arrangements for feeding the public distribution system properly, unless our economic policy emphasises production and makes sure that production increases continuously at a reasonable level, the public distribution system cannot be successful

Lastly, I would like to say a word about the remark made by Mr. M C Daga, that in our recent legislation, we try to avoid the jurisdiction of the courts Once you go to a court, you have to go the district court, the High Court and the Supreme Court. It becomes unmanageable It takes years to decide a small thing Therefore, our policy has been, in the case of economic offences to remove the power of judicial authorities It is with this object that we have vested powers in the Collector and his officers I hope this will be understood and appreciated by the hon Member of the House

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Gauhati) Mr Deputy-Speaker Sir I take my stand here to support this Bill which seems to have received almost the unanimous support of the House except some comments from my hon friend Shri M C Daga

The amendment of the Essential Commodities Act as I see it, which has been brought forward has been necessitated because of certain decisions of the court and also because of the experiences of the last few years It appears undoubtedly that we have been called upon to make amendments to almost all our legislations in recent times in large numbers But probably that cannot be avoided because we are passing through a very difficult time and also at a time when far reaching changes are taking place all over the country

We cannot but appreciate the fact that in this country the food bill constitutes the major share of the budget of an individual The rise in prices not only hits hard an individual but it affects the social economic and political situation in the country. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the Government to take all steps to see that the prices are kept at control be-

cause if we can keep the prices of essential commodities at control, we can not only give relief to the common individual but we also bring order in the political, economic and social field. It is in this sense that any stringent measure like this will have to be appreciated even though it may cause hardship to some individuals. It is a question of the choice between the hardship to some individuals, even in some stray cases injustice to some, and the relief to a vast majority of people. In such a case, obviously, the choice will be in favour of the relief to a vast majority of people. Even though the measure may have at some time or other caused some hardship to some individuals, we cannot but help in supporting this measure.

The amendment to Section 3 has become necessary, I feel, because of the decision of the Orissa High Court, if I am correct, where the levy of foodgrains was successfully assailed by parties on the ground that Section 3 deals only with stock in hand and not in the fields. The original Act, in Section 3, says that the Government will have the authority to hold stocks. That was interpreted to mean that you cannot procure essential commodities or foodgrains which are in the fields because those are not in the stock. Obviously, to get rid of these difficulties, this amendment has been brought forward. The procurement of foodgrains must be an essential thing of the whole system if we want to control prices. In the circumstances, the Government has been called upon to bring this amendment.

In fact, this amendment, to a certain extent, takes away the strength of Mr. Daga's argument of barring the jurisdiction of the court. We feel that, in such matters, the court need not have taken such a technical view of the matter divorced from the reality. Such technicalities, I feel, put the Government and the entire country in great difficulties. It will be better if, in these matters, we can take a liberal interpretation. But unfortunately in some courts, we have not seen that, and that has necessitated the change in section 3. I welcome the change.

So far as the other amendment to section 3 is concerned, a provision has been made that, if a party from whom books of account are seized so desires, he can make copies of the same. Mr. Daga has raised an objection to it, and I feel that Government should have another look at it. Now the position is that, if books of account are seized from me, I can make copies of them, but the point is that the books of account may be seized from me only for a particular purpose—only two or three pages may be necessary. Why can we not make it otherwise? If the books of account are seized, the officer concerned can make copies and those copies may be made admissible in evidence. Please see the difficulties of the party. A voluminous book of accounts will be seized from him, and the case involved may relate to only one to three or four pages. The entire books of account will be taken away by the officer concerned and the party has to make copies from 1 to 50 or so. The entire procedure can be simplified if a provision is made otherwise. In such a case, the relevant extracts may be made by the officer concerned and those may be certified and used in the evidence. In that case, the necessity of the party having to make copies of all the hundred pages or so will be done away with. That, I think, will also take care of the mischief which Government is trying to protect that is, that subsequently when the books of accounts are produced in courts, there is scope for interpolation and changes may take place in the books of account . . .

AN HON. MEMBER: There is no provision to take certified copies.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: I feel an amendment of a different nature can remove the hardship or do away with lot of injustice. Otherwise, I support it. Today the position is that there is lot of scope for interpolation. That can be done away

[Shri Dinesh Chandra Goswami]

with by a different amendment, not by the amendment which has been proposed now

There has been an effort to rationalise the prices I do not know why so many types of prices have been fixed I fell that we can further rationalise because as I see, the different kinds of prices will give scope to lawyers. Why not simplify the whole procedure?

Now, the jurisdiction of the court has been barred in cases where the goods will be seized or confiscated Under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act if goods are confiscated, a person has the right of appeal to a judicial authority appointed by the State Government One unfortunate omission in the Bill is that we have not at all prescribed the terms or conditions of the judicial authority It is left to the vagaries of the State Government as to whom they can appoint as the judical authority Now we have taken away the powers of the court We support it But at the same time we should take care to see that persons of real integrity and independence are placed in the judicial authority Therefore, there should be some guidelines in the statute itself to see that only this type of persons will be in the judicial authority

Another thing which we have to notice is this Today if a collector seizes and confiscates a person can appeal under the provisions of section 6 to the judicial authority and the decision of the judicial authority under the amending Bill cannot be assailed in a court of law But if no order of confiscation is passed but only an order of seizure is passed, then the person has no right of appeal to the judicial authority Section 6 of the Act says

> "Whenever any essential commodity is sized in pursuance of an order made under Section 3 in relation thereto, the Collector or as the case may be, the judicial authority appointed under section 6C shall have, and, notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any other law for the time being in force, any other court, tribunal or anthority shall not have, jurisdiction . "

I can understand that when you have given a right of appeal to a judicial authority, you take away the power of the court in order to avoid multiplicity of forums provided you constitute the judicial authority with persons of integrity But what about those cases where only orders of seizures will be passed and there will be no orders of confiscation? There I have no right of appeal to the judicial authority There I am entirely at the mercy of the Collector The Collector's orders are meant as final under this amending Bill If the order of seizure is made appealable to the judicial authority I could have argued reasonably, 'Look here There is a forum in which you can go and challenge the order of the Collector and there is no reason why that forum will not act judicially But, here, in case of seizures the Collector has been made the final arbiter of the whole thing and I do not welcome such a provision where such vast nowers are given to the Collector Therefore I feel and I do not mind your taking away the powers of the court but when you take away the powers of the court there should be an alternative forum where an aggrieved person may go It is always dangerous to place all the eggs in one basket It is always dangerous to vest every power with one administrative authority Afterall human beings as we are we may make *bona fide* mistakes and we may make mistakes otherwise also and it is in the fitness of things that one should be given a right of appeal You may not like to give it to the court. Even though you have given in case of confiscation the power to the judicial authority in the case of seizures also such powers should be given Otherwise I feel, knowing the situation in this country as it is giving too much power to the Collector, when you have brought in the defini-

tion of 'Collector', the Additional Collector and such other officer, not below the rank of Sub-Divisional Officers, will only create a scope for corruption and, therefore, I feel that you should take care in that direction also....

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad): Then, which is the other authority?

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: The provision as it is uptill now is that in the case of a confiscation of goods by Collector, one can appeal to the judicial authority which is appointed by the State Government. Now we have said that an order made by the Collector or the judicial authority is not appealable. Uptill now the courts have the power. Speaking for myself, even if you take away the powers of the court, I do not mind provided two safeguards are there: (1) You must define as to what are the terms and conditions of the judicial authority so that persons of integrity may come and one may have confidence. There is no guideline and the States may make Mr. 'A' or Mr. 'B' or Mr. 'C' as the judicial authority. (2) The second basic objection is that I can appeal to the judicial authority only in case of confiscation and not in case of seizure. In case of seizure the Collector's order, by this amendment, has been made absolutely final. I have a feeling that this is not a welcome provision. It is not in the spirit in which we have approached the subject. Even in constitutional amendments, whenever any power has been taken away from the courts, it has been given to a tribunal so that a man may reasonably feel that even though he may not be allowed to go to a court, here is a forum where he can go and lay his grievances.

Therefore, I feel that this amendment is not complete and an amendment of a different nature should also come where you should fix the terms and conditions and criteria for the judicial authority as well as some appellate body, if not the court, for appealing against the order of the Collector.

Broadly speaking, therefore, with these observations on this particular provisions of Section 6, I give broad support to the other provisions and on the whole I welcome the Bill. I hope the Minister will look to the objections I have raised and will try to convince me. It maybe that I am mistaken.

श्री शिव नाथ सिंह (झुंझनू) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय जैसा कि इस बिल के उद्देश्यों के विवरण में बताया गया है, इसका सम्बन्ध आवश्यक वस्तुओं के प्रोडक्शन, सप्लाई, डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन और प्राइसिंग पालिसी से है । अभी तक हमारे यहां जो प्राइसिंग पालिसी है, वह सन्तोषजनक नहीं है और सरकार को उसकी तरफ ध्यान देना चाहिये । आवश्यक वस्तुओं की दो केटेगरीज हैं : कृषि-जन्य पदार्थ और इंडस्ट्रियल गुड्स । कृषि जन्य पदार्थों की कीमतों का ढांचा बहुत गलत है । उन का उत्पादन करने वालों किसानों को रीम्युनरेटिव प्राइसिंग नहीं मिलती हैं । कुछ कृषि-जन्य पदार्थ इंडस्ट्रियल गुड्स में कनवर्ट होते हैं, मगर उन दोनों की प्राइसिज में बहुत भारी अन्तर होता है । इसलिये केवल कहीं इधर-उधर माल को कनफिस्केट करने, या इस प्रकार की दूसरी कार्यवाही करने, से सप्लाई की पोजीशन ठीक होने वाली नहीं है । हमें अपनी प्राइसिंग पालिसी की तरफ भी ध्यान देना चाहिये । इसलिये जितने भी पदार्थों में उसकी रा-मैटीरियल और फिनिश्ड गुड्स के अन्दर इतना बड़ा फर्क है उसको हमें नैरो डाउन करना पड़ेगा । आज मिडिलमैन का प्राफिट बहुत लम्बा है, सरकार जहां हैंडलिंग करती है वहां भी और प्राइवेट व्यापारी करता है वहां भी । हम प्रोड्यूसर से 105 रुपये में गेहूं लेते हैं और कन्ज्यूमर को 136–137 रु० में देते ने । इतना बड़ा जो यह गैप है

[श्री शिव नाथ सिंह]

इसको हमें कम करना चाहिये । इसलिये सरकार से मैं निवेदन करूंगा कि प्राइसिंग पालिसी की तरफ सरकार ध्यान दे जो इस कानून का उद्देश्य भी है ।

इसी तरह से कपडे का सवाल है । आवश्यक वस्तुओं में आपने बहुत सी चीजें रखी हैं लेकिन इस प्रकार की और बहुत सी चीजें हैं जिनको उसमे रखना चाहिये । मंत्री महोदय ने उस दिन 60–61 चीजों के नाम गिनाये थे । जैसे कपडे को आप ले लीजिये, यह उतना ही आवश्यक है जितना अनाज । अनाज के बारे मे हमने काफी प्राविजन्स रखे हैं । आज कोई भी आदमी चाहे वह अनाज को पैदा करने वाला हो या अनाज का ट्रेड करने वाला हो इन प्राविजन्स के अन्दर उस के पास कुछ बचने की गुंजाइश ही नही है । लेकिन जहा तक कपडे का सवाल है, कपडा भी एक आवश्यक वस्तु है, उसमे कुछ केटेगरीज आपने मिलों के लिये रखी है इसलिए कि हम जनता कपड़ा और सस्ता कपडा बनाना चाहते है । लेकिन उसमे कितनी मिलावट है, आप जितना क्लाउट देना चाहते हैं उसमे उतना वह नहीं देते हैं, जितना सूत देना चाहते है उतना सूत वह नही देते हैं, इसीलिये आपका जनता कपड़ा इतना पापुलर नही हो पाया है लेकिन इन मिल वालो के खिलाफ जो ठीक प्रकार का कपडा नही पैदा करते हैं, इन्फीरियर क्वालिटी का कपडा पैदा करते हैं, कोई कार्यवाही नही होती । इनमें से एक भी पकड में नही आते है । तो आप अपनी मशीनरी को इधर भी टाइटेन कीजिये ताकि जो इडस्ट्रियल गुड्स मे मिलावट हैं उसको वे रोके ।

पिछले दिनों मे जो एसेंशियल गुड्स हैं उनमे से खेती की चीजो के अलावा दूसरी इंडस्ट्रियल गुड्स जो हैं उनकी प्राइसेज बढ़ी हैं और वे बहुत ही मोनोपालिस्टिक तरीके से बढ़ी हैं । कपडे के ऊपर आपने कीमत छापने का प्रावधान किया । वह इतना कर दिया कि जो वास्तविक कीमत है उससे सवाया और ड्योढ़ा दाम उन्होंने छाप दिया । उसके बाद कुछ इंटरवेंशन से उस कीमत से दस परसेंट कम कर दिया । यह दिखा दिया कि जो कीमत छपी थी उस से कम में दे रहे हैं लेकिन वह भी असल कीमत से 20 परसेंट अधिक है । तो इन चीजों के ऊपर आप ध्यान दीजिये । आप की मशीनरी बिल्कुल इनएफेक्टिव है । उसमे जब तक सुधार नहीं लायेंगे तब तक इस प्रकार के प्राविजन्स से अधिक कुछ होने वाला नही है ।

इस बिल के सम्बन्ध मे मैं निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि इसमे आपने कलेक्टर के अधिकार ऐडीसनल कलेक्टर और एस० डी० ओज को दिये हैं । यह आवश्यक था क्योंकि कलेक्टर एक इतने बडे जिले का इन्चार्ज होता है, उसका सबोर्डिनेट आफिसर्स एस० डी० ओ० लेवेल का होता है वह भी कुछ कम नही होता है, वह भी स्टेट लेवल का आफिसर होता है और एक जिम्मेदार आफिसर होता है । उसको भी यह अधिकार होना चाहिये । तो यह आप का एक वेलकम प्राविजन है । लेकिन इसके साथ साथ दूसरे जो प्राविजन्स आपने रखे हैं उनमे कई में हार्डशिप्स हैं । जैसे आपने नोटिस के लिये रखा है । किसी भी चीज को कान्फिस्केट या सीज करने के लिये आपने एक नोटिस देने का प्राविजन रखा है । नोटिस वह आफिसर देता है जिस ने पन्द्रह बीस साल स्कूल कालेज मे अध्ययन किया है, जिसको ऐडमिनियट्रेटिव एक्सपीरियस हैं, उसके हाथ से कोई गलती हो गई और उसकी वजह से किसी भी आदमी की प्रापर्टी कान्फिस्केट हो गई तो उस आफिसर को आप कम्प्लीट छुट देना चाहते हैं, उस आफिसर के खिलाफ कोई ऐक्शन नही हो सकता और जो एक साधारण किसान है जो अनपढ़ है, जिसने कभी स्कूल कालेज का मुह नही देखा, उससे थोड़ी सी भी गलती हो जाती है तो उसको जेल जाना पडता है, उसकी सारी सम्पत्ति को आप कुर्क और जब्त कर सकते हैं । इसलिये यह जो अधिकार आप दे रहे हैं कि कोई भी

कानूनी खामी नोटिस में रह जाती है तो उसके लिये उस आफिसर के खिलाफ कोई कार्यवाही नहीं हो सकती है, यह ठीक नहीं है। अब आप देखिये, आपका सप्लाई मुहकमा है। मैं नहीं कहता कि कलेक्टर या एस० डी० ओ० सब बेईमान हैं लेकिन आपके सप्लाई इंस्पेक्टर या सप्लाई आफिसर जो हैं उनका कैरेक्टर हम जानते हैं। जितनी श्रांचली सप्लाई के मुहकमे में होती है उतनी और कहीं नहीं है। अब वह आफिसर चाहे जितनी भी मनमानी करे, कोई मैलाफाइडी गलती करे तो भी उसके खिलाफ कोई सूट नहीं हो सकता, कोई कार्यवाही नहीं हो सकती, ऐसा प्राविजन आपने इसमें कर दिया। यह प्राविजन बहुत ही गलत है। इसका मिसयूज होगा। आज जितने भी सरकारी अधिकारी एग्जीक्यूटिव साइड में हैं उन लोगों का कैरेक्टर बहुत गिर चुका है और वे पब्लिक से जितना अधिक ऐंठना चाहते हैं उतना ऐंठते हैं। इसलिये उनको तो आपको और कंट्रोल करना चाहिये था लेकिन वह करने के बजाय आपने उनको और छूट दे दी कि वे कहीं भी कब्जे में न आ सकें।

इसी तरह से आपने इसको अदालतों के जूरिस्डिक्शन से बाहर किया है। मैं निवेदन करूंगा कि किसी न किसी रूप में जो ऐग्रीव्ड पार्टी हैं उसको अदालत में जाने का प्राविजन हमको करना पड़ेगा क्योंकि जायज नाजायज किसी भी तरीके से किसी की सम्पत्ति आपने जब्त कर ली, उसका माल जब्त कर लिया तो उसको कम से कम अदालत में जाने का अधिकार तो होना चाहिये और उसके लिये प्राविजन इसमें होना चाहिये। जो एस० डी० ओ० और दूसरे ऐग्जीक्यूटिव आफिसर्स हैं उनको कई प्रकार की हार्डशिप्स से से गुजरना पड़ता है, उनको कई गलत काम करने पड़ते हैं तो उसके लिये उनका आप प्रोटेक्शन कर दें लेकिन अदालत में जाने का प्राविजन किसी भी ऐग्रीव्ड पार्टी के लिये न रखें तो उससे कुछ बहुत अधिक होने वाला नहीं है। इसलिये चाहे आप इस वक्त करें या बाद में लेकिन अदालत में जाने का किसी का जो अधिकार है उसका प्रावधान आपको इसमें रखना चाहिये। अभी जो प्रावधान आपने किया है वह ठीक नहीं है।

इसी तरह से इसमें कुछ प्राविजन्स जो आपने रखे हैं वह अच्छे भी है जैसे कि एक प्राविजन कागजों के सम्बन्ध में है। मैं अपने पूर्व वक्ताओं से सहमति व्यक्त करता हूं कि कागज अगर अफसरों के पास रहेंगे तो उनकी नकल लेने में हार्डशिप हो सकती है। आज कोई कागज पकड़े गये उसके बाद जिस वक्त कोर्ट में केस होता है उस दिन तक उनमें बड़ा मैनिपुलेशन हो जाता है जिसके कारण बहुत से एक्वीटल हो जाते हैं। इसलिये कागजों की सर्टिफाइड कापीज या तो आपदें या अपने पास रखें लेकिन इसके लिये कोई सेफगार्ड होनी चाहिये ताकि उनमें कोई मैनिपुलेशन न हो सके। आपने जो प्राविजन रखा है वह बेलकम है लेकिन कोई हार्डशिप हो तो उसको आप दूर कर सकते हैं।

दूसरा प्राविजन सीज्ड कमाडिटी के सम्बन्ध में है। इसी प्रकार की कमाडिटीज हो सकती हैं जिनको किसी अफसर के सामने पेश करना जरूरी नहीं होना चाहिये जब कि पहले जरूरी था। यह बेलकम प्राविजन है जिससे बहुत सी दिक्कतें दूर हो जायेंगी।

पिछले दिनों में देश में जो कीमतें बढ़ी हैं, उन पर नियंत्रण करने की जो आपकी मशीनरी है उस मशीनरी का नियंत्रण ठीक नहीं हो पा रहा है जिसकी वजह से कीमतें बढ़ी हैं। इस सम्बन्ध में जो कृषिजन्य पदार्थ हैं उनकी कीमतें तो गिरी हैं लेकिन दूसरे पदार्थों की कीमतें बढ़ी हैं। इस प्रकार से कीमतें घटाने का जो ट्रेन्ड है उससे इस देश के किसानों को नुकसान हो रहा है। किसानों को इसमें प्रोटेक्शन मिलना चाहिये।

इसमें आपने एक प्राविजन रखा है कि जिस साधन से कमोडिटी ले जाती हुई पकड़ी

(श्री शिवनाथ सिंह)

जाएगी, वह चाहे बैल हो या ऊंट हो उसको आप मार्केट वैल्यू पर कानफिस्केट कर सकते हैं या उसको बाद में मार्केट वैल्यू पर छोड़ सकते हैं। अदालत मार्केट वैल्यू ले लेगी। मैं समझता हूं इसके लिये कोई स्पेसिफिक प्राविजन होना चाहिये क्योंकि आज एक ऊंट की मार्केट वैल्यू क्या हो सकती है—एक के दिमाग में पांच सौ हो सकती है तो दूसरे के दिमाग में 15 सौ हो सकती है। मैं समझता हूं कि उसके लिये मैक्सिमम फाइन का प्रावधान कर देना चाहिये, कि उससे ज्यादा फाइन नहीं हो सकता है क्योंकि मार्केट वैल्यू तय हो नहीं सकती है।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस बिल के जो अच्छे प्राविजन है उनका समर्थन करता हूं और मंत्री जी से पुन निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि जो आपकी प्राइसिंग पालिसी है, खास तौर से कच्चे और पक्के माल के दामों में जो बहुत फर्क है उसको वे घटाने की चेष्टा करें।

SHRI B. R. SHUKLA (Baharaich): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I extend my full support to every amending provision of this Bill. Mr. Daga has criticised the very fundamental policy behind this Bill. There he is miserably mistaken because he appears still to be wedded to the doctrine of *laissez faire* a policy which has been long abandoned not only in the socialistic countries but even in liberal democracies, where the welfare State has been adopted as their policy.

The object of the amending Bill is very limited. Therefore, I shall not try to take much time about the success or validity or relevance of the amending Bill. The first point is about the definition of collector which is sought to be amended. That is going to be changed. Collector being the only officer of its kind in a district has not got sufficient time to devote for the implementation of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act. Therefore, the definition of 'Collector' is being amplified so as to include the Additional Collector as well as any other officer not below the rank of the S. D. O. which means Taluka Magistrate or Hakim Pargana in U.P. Therefore, this amending provision is very very necessary and will go a long way to relieve the burden on the Collector.

15-30 hrs.

[SHRI C. M. STEPHEN in the Chair].

The second amendment is to the effect that a person engaged in the production of an essential article can be required to sell the whole or a specified quantity of the commodity to the State Government or the Central Government or to an agent of either of these two Governments or to a corporation owned or controlled by either the Central or State Government. It has also been provided that the levy can be fixed according to the basis of the area held by the producer The necessity for amending the Act in this way arose on account of a certain pronouncement of the High Court of Orissa The cultivators were required under the Essential Commodities Act to pay levy according to the area held by them It was said that since they were not holding the actual quantity of grain in stock, therefore, it was not within the scope of the provision of the Act that they should be directed to pay the levy according to the area held by them under cultivation. In order to obviate this legal difficulty arising out of the judgment of the Orissa High Court, this amending provision is sought to be incorporated in this Bill. This is a very salutary provision, otherwise, procurement of levy grain would be very much jeopardised because of this legal difficulty.

Many hon. members have said that the court's power is taken away in matters of confiscation. They are mistaken. Under sec. 6A of the existing Act, the Collector is empowered

to confiscate in whole or part thereof if he is satisfied that there has been a contravention of any provision of the Essential Commodities Act. Now if any person is aggrieved by the order of the Collector confiscating the essential commodity, he has under that very section a right to go in appeal to a judicial authority prescribed by the State Government. Therefore, the amending sec. 6E only provides that notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any law, no court other than the Collector acting under 6A or the judicial authority which is the appellate authority under sec. 6C, would have any jurisdiction in respect of the possession, delivery, disposal or distribution of the essential commodity.

The Essential Commodities Act is a special Act. It has been enacted for the benefit of millions of consumers in this country. Therefore, if the civil and other courts are allowed to interfere with the order of the Collector, except as limited by the provision of appeal, the whole machinery would be jeopardised. Suppose thousands of wagons of essential commodity have been confiscated by the Collector and they need immediately to be distributed through fair price shops. Now the person aggrieved goes to the civil court and obtains an injunction or stay order of the civil court. It means that needy persons will have no commodity for use. Purposefully the jurisdiction of the court had been taken away. Otherwise the administration of this law will be paralysed and rendered ineffective.

Objection has also been raised that those persons who are engaged in the implementation of this Act are not going to be prosecuted. Already under section 15 of the Act there is provision that no suit or prosecution shall lie against any person purporting to act under the provisions of the Act provided his act has been done in good faith. 15(A) which is sought to be added says that such a person, if he has committed an offence while purporting to act in the discharge of his duties shall not be prosecuted except with the sanction of the State government if he is an employee of the State government or with the sanction of the Central government if he is an employee of the Central government. The reason is obvious. An officer wants procurement of grain which has been levied against a cultivator or against a hoarder. Something happens in the implementation; and next day he is being hauled up before a court; a criminal complaint is filed against him. So this protection is very salutary and it is also incorporated in the Criminal Procedure Code with reference to certain specified officers. That benefit is now being extended to other officers.

Now, with regard to account books, they are generally voluminous and they are necessary for the day-to-day work of the shop-keeper. If the whole volume is taken by the investigating authority, businessmen will suffer a lot. Therefore, the old provision should be retained; a certified copy from the account book should be taken by the officer who is seizing the account books and the original should be returned to the businessman.

With this suggestion I extend my wholehearted support to the Bill. The Act has been implemented so effectively that we are in a position to control inflation, hoarding and blackmarketing and we are proud of it. We find that hoarding, blackmarketing and the rise in prices are world phenomenon and India is no exception.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before I call upon the next speaker, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Members to the time schedule; it has to be strictly adhered to, because there is a heavy load of legislative business to be transacted. The hon. Minister will be called at 4.45 I have got with me a list of eight more speakers So the time has got to be adjusted and it means there cannot be any leniency about the timelimit; eight minutes per speaker is all that can be given.

श्री जगन्नाथ मिश्र (मधुबनी) : मुझे बहुत प्रसन्नता का अनुभव हो रहा है कि हमारी सरकार आम जनता और सर्वसाधारण के जीवन के लिये जो आवश्यक वस्तुएं हैं उनको उसके लिये मुहैया करने के लिये सुलभ, करने के लिये वचनबद्ध और कटिबद्ध है और इस निमित्त एसेंशियल कमोडिटीज एमेंडमेंट बिल ले कर इस सदन के सामने आई है और इस पर हम इस समय चर्चा कर रहे हैं। अनुभव के आधार पर मूल विधेयक जो 1955 मे पारित किया गया था उस मे जो त्रुटिया उस को मालूम पडी हैं उनका सशोधन वह अब करने जा रही है। मैं इस सशोधन विधेयक को लाने के लिये मत्री महोदय का बहुत धन्यवाद देता हू। क्लाज 8 के मातहत सरकार जो सशोधन लाई है वह अपने आप मे बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है। लोग कहते हैं कि कलेक्टर को ही सब अधिकार क्यो दिये जाते हैं। तो क्लाज (2) म मैं देखता हू कि किस तरह से पावर को डीसेन्ट्रेडनाइज किया जा रहा है। जो अधिकार पहले कलेक्टर को थे वह अधिकार अब ऐडीशनल कलेक्टर और एम०डी०ओ० को मिल रहे है। इससे स्पष्ट है कि सरकार डीसेन्ट्रेलाइजेशन के पक्ष मे है। हर सशोधन बडा महत्वपूर्ण है। उडीसा प्रोक्योरमेंट आर्डर को हाई कोर्ट ने रद्द कर दिया और मामला लटका रहा जिससे वसूली के काम मे रुकावट पडी। इसलिये जरूरी है कि इस पर रोक लगे और कुछ कडाई से काम हो। इसीलिये नियम बनने जा रहा है कि जो ओरिजिनल डोक्यूमेंट्स हैं उनको सरकार रख लेगी और पार्टी उसकी नकल कर सकती है। प्राइस का निश्चित कर दिया गया है, और कनफिस्केटेड गुड्स को जन वितरण प्रणाली के आधार पर वितरित कर दिया जायेगा और गलती करने वाले गलती न कर सके इसका ध्यान रखा गया है। और इसका निर्णय करने के लिये कलेक्टर या जुडिशियल अथोरिटी इसकी छानबीन करेंगे।

क्लाज (8) मे यह भी कहा गया है कि अगर किसी व्यवसायी को सरकार के निर्णय के खिलाफ कोई बात पेश करनी है तो वह प्रान्तीय सरकार और केन्द्रीय सरकार की अनुमति से कर सकते हैं और इन नियमों का कडाई से पालन हो इसकी व्यवस्था की गई है। इसलिये मत्री जी के सशोधन अच्छे हैं और जनहित मे हैं, इसलिये मैं इनका समर्थन करता हू।

लेकिन प्रश्न उठता है कि क्या इन सशोधनो के बाद सारी समस्या हल हो गई? जब मैं इन सशोधनो की तह म जाता हू तो लगता है कि अभी भी बहुत से लूपहोल्स हैं। जैसे जो गलती करने वाले व्यवसायी या पार्टी है उनको कैसे सजा दी जाय इस पर इनके सशोधन चुप हैं। और इसीलिये लोग गलती करते रहेंगे। ऐसा हो गया है कि कोई कानून बनाओ और मजबूती से उसका पालन न हो तो ब्लैक मार्केटियर्स होर्डर्स और प्रौफीटीयर्स सामने आयेंगे। इन तीन मगरमच्छो का कैसे काबू किया जाय, कैसे इन पर नियत्रण पाया जाय यह एक बडी समस्या है सरकार के सामने। इसलिये सरकार इस पर विचार करे और इस सशोधन मे इसका भी शामिल कर दे कि इस तरह की गलती करने वाला को सख्त से सख्त सजा दी जायगी। यह मेरा सुझाव है, और यह इसलिये भी जरूरी है कि अभी जब डी०आई० आर०, एम०आई०एस०ए० और 20 सूत्री कार्यक्रम चल रहा है, इनके रहते हुए भी जो व्यवसायी हैं वह ब्लैक मार्केटिंग, होर्डिंग्स और प्रौफिटियरिंग करने से बाज नही आ रहे हैं। इसलिये इन सब पर निगरानी की जरूरत है ताकि वह ऐसे काम न करे।

देखा जाय पिछले साल बम्पर क्रौप हुई, अन्न का अभाव नही है। लेकिन व्यवसायी इस बात की ताक मे रहते हैं कि कब मौका

खर्चे और दाम बढ़ा दें और जनता को तकलीफ़ में डाल दें। जैसे अभी मई और जून में जीवन की आवश्यक वस्तुओं के दाम बढ़ गये और जब पूछा गया तो सरकार ने कहा कि चूंकि मानसून देर से आया इसलिये कीमत बढ़ गई। यह बात मेरी समझ में नहीं आती क्योंकि मूल्य वृद्धि अप्रैल और मई में हुई और मानसून आता है जून में। इसलिये इन दोनों बातों में मेल नहीं खाता है। अगर हम चाहते हैं कि आम जनता को जीवन की आवश्यक वस्तुएं मुहैया करें तो आवश्यक है कि फूड ग्रेन्स और आवश्यक वस्तुओं में 61 चीजें आती हैं जिनको स्पष्ट किये बिना, मैं तीन चार, चीजों के बारे में कहूंगा कि फूड ग्रेन्स, शुगर, क्लाथ और टैक्सटाइल्स को आप अपने नियंत्रण में ले लें तभी जनता का कल्याण होगा, अन्यथा नहीं।

सरकार को यह भी देखना चाहिए कि क्या इस कानून और इन नियमों की रोशनी हमारे ग्रामीणों तक भी पहुंचती है या नहीं। मैं समझता हूं कि इस सम्बन्ध में ग्रामीणों का भाग्य सब से बुरा है। पहले तो उनको चीजें मिलती नहीं हैं, और अगर मिलती भी है, तो वे शहरों की अपेक्षा अधिक मूल्य पर मिलती हैं। इसलिए सरकार को यह व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए कि शहरों और ग्रामों, दोनों जगहों में, चीजें एक ही मूल्य पर उपलब्ध हों। ग्रामीणों को चीजें मुहैया करने के लिए मोबाइल शाप्स, घूमती-फिरती दुकानों, की व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए।

गवर्नमेंट जो स्टाक करती है, उसको सुरक्षित ढंग से रखने के लिए स्टोरेज का इन्तजाम सक्षम और संतोषजनक होना चाहिए, वर्ना सामान गल-सड़ जायेगा, नष्ट हो जायेगा, जिससे राष्ट्रीय क्षति होगी।

इम्पोर्टिड गुड्स के वितरण की समुचित व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए, ताकि वे उचित मूल्य पर ग्रामों और शहरों में मुहैया हो सकें।

मेरे क्षेत्र में एक शूगर फैक्टरी गत वर्ष से बन्द है। यह बात समझ में नहीं आती है कि जब देश में 20-सूत्री कार्यक्रम को कार्यान्वित किया जा रहा है, तो यह फैक्टरी क्यों बन्द है। उसके कर्मचारी बेकार हो गये हैं और अपनी रोजी-रोटी से वंचित कर दिये गये हैं। यह बहुत आवश्यक है कि कम से कम जब तक देश में वातावरण सुधर नहीं जाता है, तब तक किसी फैक्टरी या मिल में हड़ताल, घेराव और छंटनी न हो और न ही कोई फैक्टरी बन्द हो। मुझे आशा है कि मंत्री महोदय इस मामले की तरफ़ ध्यान देंगे।

मैं इस विधेयक का समर्थन करता हूं।

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO (Chatrapur): Mr. Chairman, while supporting this Bill, I am constrained to say that the implementation of this Act during the last 21 years has been very tardy, with the result that we have not been able to achieve the objectives embodied in this Act. The Bill says:

> "In the interests of the general public, the Act provides for the control of the production, supply and distribution of, and trade and commerce in, certain commodities."

The essential commodities have been enumerated; the power is also given to the Government by official notification to include any other article as an essential commodity.

But, what have we done? We have not been able to build up any public distribution system. We are not able to control production in the sense we are not asking the agriculturists to produce certain commodities which are essential. We leave it to the free will of the agriculturists to produce any crop which, according to them, will give them more profit. I am glad that the Government is thinking of a national plan for production of foodgrains. It is very good.

[Shri Jagannath Rao]

Coming to prices, there is no uniformity in prices. The prices go up during the days of plenty as well as during the days of scarcity. There is no control on prices and there no price tag is fixed to any article. This is the time for the Government to think of a built-in machinery, a public distribution system. When we talk of the public distribution system, the Government applies its mind only to the urban and industrial areas. Naturally, it is necessary there, but what about the other areas, the subdivisional, district, taluk or block headquarters level, where also there are poor people who require some protection? Therefore, this built-in machinery should extend up to the block level. The essential commodities should be procured either by the Government or the co-operative societies and supplied at the reasonable prices to the people who are in need of them.

There is a crisis of character in the country. The traders are not interested in the well-being of the people. They are avaricious. They indulge in hoarding, blackmarketing and profiteering. The other day the prices shot up only because of the delayed monsoon But when the Government took firm action and some traders were detained under the MISA, the traders released the stocks and the prices came down. It this is going to be the pattern of our society, I do not think we can progress as a nation. Therefore, it is highly necessary that the Government should keep a watch not only on production but also supply, distribution and prices. I hope Government will now seriously think in this regard and, God willing, this new system will come into being very soon.

The amendments sought to be made now are mostly procedural, which are also necessary, except for section 3(1)(f) which is a substantive provision which is necessitated by the decision of the Orissa High Court. The Orissa High court was right in striking down the levy order, I know it, I come from that State, because a certain quantity of paddy was levied on a particular person without reference to the crop. He was asked to give certain number of quintals of paddy though the land does not given him so much. Has he to go to the market and purchase and give it to the officer? So, on the ground that it had no relation to the land in his possession and the crop yield from that land, it was struck down. That defect has now been remedied, and this amendment is highly necessary.

My friends were complaining that there is no appeal against seizures. I am afraid they are wrong. If they read the proposed Clause 6E it says:

> "Whenever any essential commodity is seized in pursuance of an order made under section 3 in relation thereto, the Collector or, as the case may be, the judicial authority appointed under section 6C shall have, notwithstanding anything contained in any other law, jurisdiction. etc. etc."

Therefore, the jurisdiction rests with the Collector to review the order or the judicial authority constituted. Therefore, the authority is there, and the right to complain against seizures is given to the aggrieved persons. So also, there is the right of appeal against confiscation. Therefore, the objections raised are not valid according to me.

I would also say that the Act should be a self-contained code. Code by itself, and no one should take recourse to other laws. This Bill seeks to restrict the rights of citizens to go to a court under article 226, but there is provision for an aggrieved person to complain against an order. So, if you view this Act in this particular context, there is no room for complaint from any quarter.

Therefore, while I welcome the Bill, I suggest that the punishment

should be more stringent. Let us not be forced to take recourse to MISA, DIR etc., against the offenders. We had made some provisions for summary trials in 1974, but what is the sentence? One year. Why don't you make the punishment more stringent, make this Act a Code in itself, so that you do not have to go to any other law except the Criminal Procedure Code for purposes of procedure, for trial of cases, because these cases have to be disposed of summarily. The luxury of litigation should not be allowed to an aggrieved person. He may have a grievance, it does not matter. On the ground of natural justice there should be some provision in law to an aggrieved person to complain to higher authorities. That is there. Beyond that, he should not be allowed to go to the High Court and the Supreme Court.

Therefore, I would request the Government to review this Act and bring a comprehensive legislation to achieve the objects mentioned in the original Act and see that e control production, that there is a national plan for production, a national plan for procurement, supply and distribution up to the block level.

What is the provision we have made for the poor people? How are we ensuring the availability of essential commodities at reasonable prices to them? This Bill is no improvement in that regard. You have curtailed some rights of the individuals to go to courts, that is all right, but the desired result cannot be achieved by this amendment. So, while supporting the Bill I would appeal to the Government to think seriously and bring forward a comprehensive legislation whereby we can have a permanent built-in public distribution system in the country to achieve the objective for which the original Act was enacted.

सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह सोखी (जमशेदपुर) : चेयरमैन साहब, यह जो एसेंशियल कमाडिटीज (अमेंडमेंट) बिल यहां पर लाया गया है वह बहुत अच्छा बिल है। 1955 में जो ऐक्ट बनाया गया था उसमें बहुत सारी ऐसी बातें थीं जिनको इस वक्त अमेंड करने की जरूरत थी। मुझ से पहले बहुत सारे दोस्तों ने यहां पर अफ़सरों के बारे में और एकाउन्ट बुक्स के बारे में कहा है, मैं भी अपने कुछ सुझाव रखना चाहता हूं।

पहली बात तो यह है कि एस०डी०ओ० और कलक्टर वगैरह जो होते हैं उनको आपने यहां से तो पावर दे दी लेकिन वे लोग क्या करते हैं कि अपनी पावर्स को आगे अपने सबार्डिनेट्स को डेलिगेट कर देते हैं। वे खुद तो किसी टूर पर चले गये और पावर्स किसी दूसरे मैजिस्ट्रेट को डेलिगेट कर दीं। इसमें कई किस्म की बातें होती हैं। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूं इसमें स्ट्रिक्ट प्राविजन होना चाहिए कि जो पावर्स दी गई हैं उनको आगे डेलिगेट नहीं करना है।

अफ़सरों में जहां तक करप्शन का सवाल है, उसके बारे में कई दफ़ा यहां पर बातें हुई हैं। खास तौर से हमारी स्टेट बिहार में तो बहुत ही करप्शन है। वहां पर बगैर पैसा दिये कोई चीज आगे नहीं चलती है। बिना पैसा दिये कोई कागज आगे अफ़सर के पास नहीं जायेगा। जहां तक एसेंशियल कमाडिटीज का सवाल है उसको भी आप स्टेट्स पर ही छोड़ देते हैं। होर्डिंग तो आज भी एन्जिन्ट करती है। हम देखते हैं कि बीच बीच में चीजें मिलनी बन्द हो जाती हैं। अभी कुछ दिन पहले बाजार में बेबी फूड मिलना बन्द हो गया था। सप्लाई मोहकमे की यह जिम्मेदारी होती है कि जो एसेंशियल कमाडिटीज हैं, कम से कम जो बच्चों के लिए जरूरी चीजें हैं वह तो मिलनी बन्द नहीं होनी चाहिए। अभी तेल के दाम कितने बढ़ गये। कम से कम कुछ दिनों तक तो एक दाम चलने चाहिए। एसेंशियल कमाडिटीज पर दूकानदार ने कीमत लगा दी कि इसकी इतनी कीमत है

[सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह लोखी]

लेकिन कोई तो होना चाहिए उससे पूछने वाला कि इतनी कीमत कैसे है ? दूकानदार ने प्राइस लिस्ट लगा दी और हम लोग उसको खरीद लेते हैं। जो सुपर बाजार है वहां पर कई चीजें बाजार से भी महंगी मिलती है। इन चीजों को भी आपको देखना चाहिए। जहां तक चीनी का मामला है, लेवी चीनी के बाद आपने फैक्टरीज को छूट दे दी है ताकि वे घाटे को पूरा कर सके। चीनी का दाम 5 पये 70 पैसे किलो हो गया है। जब चीनी का दाम 4 रुपये किलो था तभी हम लोग कहते थे चीनी बहुत महंगी है और अब तो पांच रुपये से बहुत ऊपर चली गई हैं। तो चीनी के लिए आप कोई एक तरह का कानून बनायें ताकि उसको अच्छी तरह से चला सके।

यहां पर सर्टिफाइड बुक्स के बारे में हमारे बहुत से साथियों ने कहा है, मैं भी एक सुझाव देना चाहता हूं। बुक्स आफ एकाउन्ट जो है, जिस तरह से कार्बन कापी रखी जाती है उस तरह से उनको वह रख लें। जब कभी सीज करना हुआ तो उसकी एक कापी दे। आगे करना होता यह है कि बाद में बुक्स बदल जाती है। तो ऐसे रजिस्टर बनाये जायें जिनकी कार्बन कापीज भी हो जाये। इस तरह से किसी को कोई शिकायत नहीं रहेगी। आप देखिये—किसानों से सरकार सामान खरीदेगी, इस काम के लिये आपके अधिकारी जायेंगे, मिनिस्टर साहब तो जाकर वहां नहीं खरीदेंगे। नतीजा क्या होगा, जो सीधा किसान होगा, उसके सामान के बारे में कह दिया जायगा कि ठीक नहीं है, लेकिन जो चलता-पुर्जा होगा, उसके सामान के लिये कह देंगे कि ठीक है—इस तरह की मनमानी को रोकना चाहिए, इस तरह की बहुत सी शिकायतें सुनने में आई हैं।

इस बिल के पेज 3 पर लिखा है—

"the need for making such grade or variety of foodgrains, edible oilseeds or edible oils available at reasonable prices to the consumers, particularly the vulnerable sections of the consumers."

मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि इसको कौन करेगा, इसको अवेलेबिल करने के लिये आप के पास कौन सी मशीनरी है जो इसको ईमानदारी से लागू कर सके। इस काम के लिये जब तक आप ईमानदार आदमियों को नहीं लगायेंगे काम नहीं चलेगा, क्योंकि ये कितने कारोबारी लोग हैं जिनको हम ने बीच से से हटाया है, ये ही बदनामी करते हैं, ये नहीं चाहते हैं कि सरकार की स्कीम कामयाब हों।

16.00 hrs.

आप फेयर प्राइस शाप्स से हमें राशन का गेहूं देते हैं, लेकिन पता नहीं क्या बात है, अभी भी इन दुकानों से जो गेहूं मिलता है वह बाहर के मंगाये हुए गेहूं से भी घटिया होता है और उसका पैसा भी ज्यादा लगता है। यह ठीक है कि फेयर-प्राइस शाप्स का मामला स्टेट-मैटर है, लेकिन आप स्टेट को कह सकते हैं कि वह इसको ठीक करे, आप उन पर निगरानी रख सकते हैं।

आप ने कहा है—

"a report of such seizure shall, without unreasonable delay, be made "

जो गुड्स सीज हो जाता है उसके डिस्पोजल का क्या इन्तजाम है। इसके लिये आप ने कहा है कि उसको बेच कर उसका पैसा मालिक को दे देंगे, लेकिन मैं आपसे अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि चोर कभी नहीं पकड़ा जाता, जो सीधा आदमी होता है वही पकड़ा जाता है। आप ने किसी का माल सीज कर लिया और उसके पचास हजार के माल को नमक के भाव दस हजार में बेच दिया और बाद में देखा गया कि यह काम गलत हो गया है, तब इसका कौन जिम्मेदार होगा, वह गरीब आदमी तो मारा गया। इसलिये मैं चाहता हूं कि सीजर का काम बहुत देखभाल के किया

जाये। मैं आप के सामने एक मिसाल रखता हूं—कल ही एक सवाल के जवाब में बताया गया कि महाराष्ट्र के बार्डर पर एक आयल टैंकर पड़ा हुआ है जिसका कोई क्लेमेन्ट नहीं है, अगर इस किस्म की चीज को सीज करते हैं तो फिर उसका क्या करेंगे, क्या वह वहीं पड़ा-पड़ा सड़ जायगा। या उसको फ़ौरन डिस्पोज किया जायगा। मेरी आपसे यही दरख्वास्त है कि जो चीज सीज की जाय उसके फ़ौरन डिस्पोजल का इन्तजाम किया जाय।

प्राइसेज फ़लक्चुएट करती हैं, हमेशा एक से दाम नहीं रख सकते हैं। इस फ़लक्चुएशन के दौरान अगर सरकार कोई कदम उठाती है तो उसका पता पब्लिक को भी लगना चाहिए। जैसे स्पाट-न्यूज का बोर्ड होता है, ऐसा ही कोई इन्तजाम प्राइसेज के बारे में होना चाहिए ताकि जनता को उसकी खबर मिल सके।

जो आफ़िसर्ज करप्ट होंगे उनके लिए आपने लिखा है कि उनको पनिश किया जायगा। मैं चाहता हूं कि उनको फ़ौरन डिस्मिस किया जाय, उसके बाद उनके खिलाफ प्रोसीडिंग्ज स्टार्ट की जाय।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूं।

श्री हरी सिंह (खुर्जा) : जो बिल पेश किया गया है इसका मन्तव्य यह है कि बाजार का रेग्युलेशन हो सके, दैनिक उपयोग की जो वस्तुएं हैं वे आसानी से और ठीक दामों पर मिल सकें, उसमें भ्रष्टाचार, धांधली आदि न हो सके। यह मोटे तौर पर इस बिल का उद्देश्य है। जो गड़बड़ी करेंगे वे आसानी से इसकी गिरफ्त में अब आ सकेंगे। पिछले कानून में जो कमियां थीं, जो विरोधाभास था, व्यापारी वर्ग रोजाना की चीजों में जो गड़बड़ी करता था और उसको पकड़ने में जो दिक्कत होती थी वह अब नहीं हो सकेगी। बहुत सी चीजों की इसमें सफाई करदी गई है। सरकार को क्या करना है, व्यापारी किस तरह से काम करे ताकि वह पकड़ में न आये यह सब इसमें साफ कर दिया गया है। इसका मैं समझता हूं बहुत ही लाभप्रद फल निकलेगा।

आपको तो मालूम ही है कि पिछले दिनों में देश में रोजाना के इस्तेमाल की चीजें, नागरिकों के भरण पोषण की चीजें मिलती नहीं थीं। मंत्रालय ने उन चीजों का उत्पादन भी बढ़वाया और उनको आसानी से सुलभ भी करवाया और इसके लिए वह बधाई का पात्र है। तब एक छोर से दूसरे छोर तक आप चले जाते थे तो बहुत ही वस्तुएं आपको नजर नहीं आती थीं। साबुन खरीदने आप जाते थे तो मनमाने दामों पर मिलता है, दूकानदार फटकारता था, चीजें दूकान में छिपा कर रख छोड़ता था, देता नहीं था। मंत्रालय ने अपनी सूझबूझ और मुस्तैदी से काम किया और रोजाना के इस्तेमाल की चीजें गांवों और शहरों में मिलने लग गईं। यह इस मंत्रालय की बड़ी उपलब्धि है।

यह प्रसन्नता की बात है कि इनफ्लेशन पर काबू पाया गया है और जबकि यूरोप के कई देशों में रोजाना इस्तेमाल की चीजें उपलब्ध नहीं हैं यहां पर उनको उपलब्ध कराया है। वहां पर इसका अकाल पड़ा हुआ है। इंग्लैंड में मक्खन और टिमाटर तक नहीं मिल रहे हैं। फ्रांस तथा यूरोप के कई देशों में दैनिक उपयोग की चीजें मिलने में बड़ी कठिनाई हो रही है। भारत में भी यह संकट आया था। विदेशी ताकतों ने इसको पैदा किया था और कुछ व्यापारी वर्ग, सरमायेदार वर्ग ने भी इसको उत्पन्न किया था लेकिन सरकार ने सूझबूझ और दूरंदेशी का परिचय दिया और इस संकट से पार पाया और आज ये वस्तुएं आसानी से और उचित कीमतों पर सारे देश में उपलब्ध हैं और इसके लिए मंत्रालय बधाई का पात्र है।

[श्री हरी सिंह]

यह खुशी की बात है कि इस सम्बन्ध में एक राष्ट्रीय नीति बनने जा रही है। इससे चीजों के दामों में जो बहुत उतार-चढ़ाव होता रहता है वह मिट जायेगा। आदमी को खरीदते वक्त मालूम पड़ता था कि पता नहीं दूकानदार क्या कीमत उसकी मांग बैठे। मारलेनिंग की जो बीमारी सदियों से चली आ रही थी, जो एक ला-इलाज बीमारी मालूम पड़ती थी उसको भी सरकार खत्म करने जा रही है, उसको भी सरकार रोकने जा रही है और इस काम में यह कानून सरकार के हाथ मजबूत करेगा।

चीनी की बात भी हो रही है। इसके दो भाव चल रहे हैं। एक कंट्रोल भाव और दूसरा खुले बाजार का भाव। इन दोनों में कोई पैरिटी नहीं दिखाई देती है। इन दो भावों के पीछे कोई तर्क या दलील मालूम नहीं पड़ती है। इन दोनों भावों में इतना ज्यादा फर्क नहीं होना चाहिए। गावों में जो चीनी का कोटा बांटने के लिए दिया जाता है गांव का प्रधान या जो दूकानदार होता है वह चीनी को बांटता नहीं है, एक दो आदमियों को दे दी और बाकी को ब्लैक में बेच दिया। अगर भाव में इतना ज्यादा फर्क न हो तो यह जो ब्लैकमार्केट होती है वह खत्म हो सकती है।

शहरों में जो लोग रहते हैं उनको चीजें मिलने में कोई दिक्कत नहीं है। फेयर प्राइस शाप पर उनको ये सब मिल जाती हैं। समस्या गावों की है। वहां पर न तो कोई फेयर प्राइस शाप हैं और न कोआपरेटिव्स हैं जिनमें रोजाना के इस्तेमाल की चीजें मिल सकें। किसानों के रोजाना के इस्तेमाल की जो चीजें हैं उनके दाम वहां बहुत बढ़े-चढ़े हैं। उनको कंट्रोल करने में सरकार की नीति सामने नहीं आ रही है। जैसे बीज का इसमें जिक्र आया है। आप देखें कि किसानों को अच्छा बीज नहीं मिलता है, बल्कि जो घपला करने वाले होते हैं वह घटिया बीज देकर बढ़िया बीज के दाम किसानों से वसूल करते हैं जिससे किसानों को तकलीफ होती है।

भारत की अनेक गन्ना मिलों पर किसानों के गन्ने का दाम करोड़ों रु० की ताबाद में बकाया पड़ा हुआ है। किसान इस बात से परेशान है कि उसे मिलों से पैसा नहीं मिल रहा है। इसलिये सरकार को अगर चीनी बनवानी है तो सरकार को चीनी मिलों का राष्ट्रीयकरण करना होगा। मैं बराबर कह रहा हूं कि सरकार को डिटरमिन्ड हो कर तय करना है कि जो हैवी इंडस्ट्रीज हैं जिनका राष्ट्रीय महत्व है, जिनका सारे देश की जनता से ताल्लुक है, उन सारे उद्योगों का राष्ट्रीयकरण करना होगा, इसके अलावा और कोई चारा नहीं है। सरकार को बाकायदा पालिसी इस बारे में निर्धारित करनी चाहिए और जितनी जल्दी हम चेत जायेंगे उतना ही अच्छा है।

किसान को भी आप फेयर प्राइस शाप पर चीजें दिलाने का प्रबन्ध करें। गावों की जो समस्या है उनका एहसास आपको यहां बैठ कर नहीं हो सकता है। अगर आप को महंगे दामों पर चीजें दिलानी हैं तो गावों में जा करके मारकेटिंग पालिसी को इम्प्लीमेंट करना चाहिए।

आजकल होर्डिंग बहुत व्यापारी कर रहे हैं इसके लिये हम को बाकायदा दस्ते बना कर रोजाना की ड्यूटी की तरह चैकिंग के लिये कस्बों और शहरों में जाना चाहिए।

एक बात और कहना चाहता हूं। बहुत सारी चीजें हम विदेशों में भेजते हैं जैसे प्याज। तो यह देखें कि अगर कोई ऐसा आइटम है जिसको बाहर भेज कर विदेशी मुद्रा पैदा कर सकते हैं, ऐसी चीज की देश में सप्लाई को कंट्रोल करके, उसे विदेशों में भेजना चाहिए ताकि फौरेन एक्सचेंज मिले। वह चाहे कृषि जन्य

पदार्थ हो या कारखानों से उत्पादित वस्तु हो। उसको बाहर भेजना चाहिए ऐसी सरकार को पॉलिसी बनानी चाहिए।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूं।

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR (Dindigul): I welcome this Bill. I would like to offer a few points. We are amendding certain provisions of the law specifically connected with oil and foodgrains. Distribution system and price stabilisation are the two major points here. We should implement these schemes vigorously under the present emergency.

Regarding poor man's consumption items like coconut oil, sugar, jingili oil, groundnut oil, and all these things, Government should set up public sector distribution centre for distribution of these essential commodities. It is not enough caring for urban people alone. The rural people should get more benefit out of Governmental activities and protection.

At present the rural population are unable to get these essential commodities through government agencies. They supply to only towns and urban areas and not to remote rural areas They are really more poor than the urban population. There should be sufficient number of fair-price shops set up by Government agencies. There must be one cooperative centre set up by the Government where thousand families or more reside in one place. We must set up one such cooperative centre to distribute all these essential commodities.

Then, Sir, we hear government's saying that we are self-sufficient in foodgrains. For some years in the past as also in this year and recently the prices of essential commodities have considerably come down. But, in the last one or two months, we find that the price of cloth has gone up. This is not treated as an essential commodity by Government. Government should be vigilant to arrest the rising trends in the prices of essential commodities. Kerosene, milo, rice etc. should be supplied in every nook and corner of India including the rural areas in order to avoid or put an end to the blackmarketing in these commodities. I suggest that Government should take immediate steps to see that they abolish the middlemen—the commission agents—as this affects the sales of essential commodities at the controlled price. For example, in the rural areas, it is these middlemen, the commission agents, who create artificial scarcity of essential commodities and push up their prices. In this process, those who purchase from the producers, the dealers, also raise the prices. As a result of this the farmer in the field are unable to get a fair price for their produce. Therefore, I plead with the Government for the abolition of the middlemen or commision agency system. Necessary steps should be taken by Government in that direction.

I am sorry to state that cloth and medicines are not at all considered by Government of India or the State Governments as falling under the esential commodities. I am however happy to note that the prices of essential commodities are coming down. But, what about the cloth and medicines? Even in emergency—not only in emergency but even from 1950 till to-day the prices are going up and up. These could have come down like the other essential commodities. What action has been taken by Government?

Poor people cannot afford to purchase the costly medicines. These are common and essential and inevitable commodities used by both rural and urban people. Therefore, I would request the Government to look into this matter and see that during emergency the prices are not allowed to go up. It is reported in the paper that in Madras, the prices of medicines are going up and the poor people are un-

[Shri K Mayathevar]

able to purchase the medicines for the treatment of the diseases and, as a result of that, they are not rid of the disease from which they are suffering. Government should do something in the matter

I welcome the provisions made in this Bill in regard to the seizures of essential commodities Stocks are seized from the business people, the black-Marketeers by the government officials Government should not pay any compensation to these unscrupulous business people when stocks are seized from them We will have to pay the compensation for the essential commodities when they are sized from the farmers who are keeping them as their surpluses by the dishonest officials You have to make a distinction between these two when you seize the essential commodities namely the pooor farmers and the blackmarketeers—businessmen

The Bill is silent with regard to awarding punishment to the black-marketeers—offenders—on the official side as well as on the business side Regarding the officials, it the the Government thinks that a particular official is corrupt and is supporting the hoarders and blackmarkteers, they should not only be dismissed, by the departmental action, from service, but they should also be severely punished by taking action under the relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code and other laws of the land

Now in Tamil Nadu, I am told by the District Collectors and Divisional Revenue Officers that the subordinate officers like revenue inspectors tehsildars and district officers are supporting the hoarders They are not implementing the twenty-pomt programme as ordered by the Revenue Board members and District Collectors These officials should be dealt with very severely by the Government

Regarding the malpractices of hoarders and blackmarketeers, our Government should come forward to punish them with death sentence Why are you hesitating to take stringent action against people who are playing with the lives of 65 crores of people? Not only MISA should be used, but this punishment should also be given to them I read in the papers that in Tamil Nadu MISA has been applied only against 15 blackmarketeers This is not sufficient There are hundreds of blackmarketeers there If you arrest all of of them, prices will naturally come down

I would only make this request to the hon Minister who is an able, young and efficient Minister He should look into the matter very seriously and take action in an honest and straightforward manner which will safeguard the interest of the poor masses and the middle classes With these words I conclude and also thank the Chairman

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) I rise to welcome this amending Bill which has been brought forward by the hon Minister after our experience with the original Act Recently when the prices of some of the essential commodities were showing signs of rising, the hon Minister himself said that 'the profiteers who were reconciled to the emergency were waiting on their wings to exploit the situation when the opportunity arose' That opportunity came because of the monsoon being delayed by 15-20 days Therefore, they could try to raise the prices of certain essential commodities This is the real analysis of the problem

This means that we have a market economy in this country and it is really a Herculean effort to control it In the last one year we have succeeded in controlling the market economy where so many forces are acting ad where Goverument's control is limited On production, on supply, on the wholesale system,

Government has no control; it is only in distribution, and that too through fair price shops that there is some control. Ultimately, this is the present limited responsibility of the Government and Government are carrying on with 2½ lakh fair price shops. This is the limitation which the hon. Minister has pointed out.

In the limited time at my disposal, I would like to make three or four suggestions for the consideration of the hon. Minister. In view of our past experience, as we have pressed in this House many times, in so far as essential consumer items are concerned, why not Government step in and take over their production in the public sector—I mean production of all those essential commodities which are needed by the poorer sections, the weaker sections? I could see from this Bill and from the situation in the country that perhaps for many years to come, if we want to deal with the market economy, we have to be more stringent in our drive against profiteers, hoarders and blackmarketeers, which of course Government are, and are sincerely doing it. Perhaps it is a unique effort on our part that we have been able to control and bring down the prices during the last one year. Thanks to the Minister, the Ministry and the Government of India.

Essential commodities constitute the first point of the twenty-point economic programme. Here I would like to submit one thing. An impression is gaining ground in the countryside, or in the villages, that there is a disparity between the prices of industrial products which the villagers are getting and the prices of the agricultural commodities which they are producing, which have been slashed down. I do not know why this impression should be there. The rural people are getting the products of essential commodities which are produced by the industrial sector, and their prices are not coming down. The prices of agricultural commodities, things such as coconut oil, rice, wheat, etc. are going down and the government has to come out with support prices. I think there ought to be stringent control on industrial products also which are sold in the rural areas.

In regard to collection and levy, I want to mention this. I have my personal experience in Orissa. The levy was made on the basis of land records of very old times; the records were in the names of fore fathers, three generations ago. First generation has gone; second generation has gone; the third and fourth generations are there in 1975 and 1976 but the basis of levy was those very old records. Naturally the High Court struck it down. It is good that it was done and you brought in this amendment. I know how much the small producers and small farmers were harassed. One point in the 20 point economic programme is that the land records should be corrected. In the absence of this thing, the tehsildar and the revenue inspector go and say to a small farmer; you shall have to pay forty bags. The poor farmer, how can he do that? He says: Can I pay you something so that it could be reduced and they will say: yes; and it will be reduced to ten bags. Is this the way it should be done? How can people have faith in government or administrative machinery? When a levy is made on a farmer, one has to look into relevant factors such as whether it is dry land or irrigated land, wet land or dry land, whether it is capable of production of so much and so on. Suppose you want to collect thirty lakhs of tonnes in one state, you can have a fair idea of how to collect that quantity; it should be a rational method and it should leave no scope for the whims and fancies of particular officials being brought into play which will lead to a lot of harassment of the poor and illiterate peasants.

[Shri Chintamani Panigrahi]

I now come to the public distribution system. We cannot solve the problem unless we build self-reliant village economics; take a group of 50 or 100 villages and plan accordingly so that you can produce many of those things needed in the villages; that will also be in keeping with the Gandhian ideal, so that they may not have to depend upon Bombay or Ahmedabad and if Mr. George cannot get two wagons to send clothes the price of cloth in some for corner of the country will shoot up. We shall have to build up an efficient public distribution system. I know there are 2.31 lakh fair price shops to give essential items and three thousand hostels are being supplied with things for the benefit of students. Inspite of those good things which the government has done, the public distribution system is not adequate and it is not going to meet all the rising demands of consumption of our people in the countryside. Therefore, every place must have a consumer store where you can store some of those items; then you will be able to control the market economy. We are going towards socialist ideals; let us try to give up the kind of market economy which is also difficult to control fully.

SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHAPATRA (Balasore): Mr. Chairman, I support the Bill with all my heart because I say that there is a realistic appraisal of the whole situation. The Prime Minister has stated times without number that "Special care should be taken to ensure that there is no shortage of essential commodities." There is no denying the fact that the the hoarders, blackmarketeers and racketeers and those who want to undermine the economic progress of our country are our worst enemies and if there is any section of the people who are trying to subvert our economic progress by taking advantage of the situation of flood or drought or shortage of commodities, it is only the economic offenders who are doing it.

16.29 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

I am sure this Bill will strengthen the hands of the Collectors, Additional Collectors, S.D.Os. etc. to tackle the situation within the ambit of law. But I have a note of caution for the government. Sometimes bureaucrats act with high-handedness, regardless of the fact that the opinion is something different. They will be very much strengthened by the powers entrusted to them by the minister. In my constituency of Balasore, there is a place called Soro. Last year, the Collector, Mr. R. N. Senapati, arrested about 15 people, as they were found to be acting in a manner prejudicial to the interest of the community. They were trading in esential commodities and involved in smuggling across the border to West Bengal. It so happened that within a month, there was so much pressure on him from various sections of the secretariat at Bhuvaneswar and he had no alternative but to release those 15 people. This is hyperbolic non-sense. On the one side we say we must strengthen the hands of the Collector, but if there is a good Collector trying to do some good to the community by brining to book economic offenders, you put presure on him and compel him to release the culprits. Simultaneously, there are police officers who will take advantage of the situation. In my State, there are Police Superintendents who will take advantage of the situation and put people behind the bar under DIR, MISA or some other Act. The minister should be very cautious to see that this is implemanted in a way so that the people are happy. After all, what is the *summum bonum*? The people should be happy, the country should progress and all sections of the society must proceed to a stage of egalitarianism. But the worst enemies today are the economic offenders who are hand in glove with the officer class

and the minister should be cautious about them.

Inflation is going down in the country. In 1973-74, according to Mr. George, inflation was riding at a speed of 2 per cent per month and it continued for several months. By the end of 1975, it came to almost minimum inflation. Today the country is making good progress. Mr. George said two months ago that there was a rise in the prices of commodities between April and June to the extent of 4.7 per cent. Why was it so? In July, Mr. Om Mehta, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, had to advise all the State Governments to use MISA and other measures drastically against economic offenders, because even during the emergency, the economic offenders, racketeers, hoarders and blackmarketeers somehow or other think that the emergency has become normalised and they can take advantage of the situation. In every section of the people, we find today a climate of normalisation. So, the government should be still more vigilant to see that MISA, DIR and other provisions are used ruthlessly against economic offanders and anti-national elements.

Production is going up and there is no recession today, as Mr. Pai, the Minister of Industry, said. I must congratulate Mr. Pai on this. The industrialists have been giving a false conception to the people that there is not much of production, that there is recession, that there is no scope for export of our goods to foreign countries, etc. They create such a climate through the newspapers owned by them. It is very good that the Minister has come forward strongly, saying that there is no recession. India is not an under-developed country Mr. Pai said on the floor of the House that India is a developed country and we are able to export industrial goods and technical know-how to foreign countries. As Mr. Panigrahi rightly said, the government must be vigilant about the prices of not only consumer items but also industrial goods. An hon. member on the other side said that the prices of medicines are increasing. I read an article where found that Vitamine C, B Complex and elixirs are available in foreign countries, UK and Europe at a price which is 10 per cent less than what we are paying in India. It appeared in the newspapers only a week back. It was written by a correspondent who was based at London. I want to know whether this is a fact. If so, Shri George should be more vigilant and see that the medicines come under the essential commodities.

It is true that this Bill will not only strengthen the hands of the Collector but will also deprive the economic offenders the right to go to the court as often as they like. But it will all depend upon the attitude of the bureaucracy, of the Government. We should see to it that people are not unnecessarily harassed. If we take away from the person concerned the original and ask him to have recourse to a photastat copy, how is it possible to function? It is not possible; it is difficult. He cannot go to a court. So, these things should not be lost sight of. Everything depends upon the attitude of the Government and the way you want to deliver the goods.

If you strengthen the hands of the Collector, ADM, SDO and police in a proper way, things will run well. But if they try to take advantage of the situation, it will be autocracy; sometimes it will tend to become even mobocracy. When we are striving to build an egalitarian society, let us not strengthen the hands of the bureaucracy Let us function in the interests of the common man and let us accelerate the 20-Point Programme, which is the *summum bonum* of our economic progress, as outlined by our Prime Minister.

SHRI B. V. NAIK (Kanara): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I think everything that is worthwhile that has to be said about this Bill has already been mentioned.

[Shri B. V. Naik]

One of the provisions of the Bill says:

> "to sell the whole or a specified part of the quantity held in stock, or produced or received by him."

Suppose a farmer has one or two acres of land and produces 10 or 15 quintals of a crop, is he expected to sell the whole of it, if it is found necessary in the eyes of the ordering authority to take over the whole produce? In other words, what has been evolved as a system of levy, can it be made applicable to the entire gross produce, on the holding of a farmer? According to this law, which ought to reflect the intention of the legislator as to how he intends to administer this law, a farmer can be asked to part with the whole of it. Why is it that you want to have such overall or such sweeping powers in the hands of the levying authority? I think it is time that the Government itself modifies this when it comes to the agricultural produce Suppose I produce cloth, or edible oils, or if I am a factory owner, Government should have the right to requisition the entire quantity. But when the producer consumes as of necessity some of his produce, it has got to be delinked I think this sort of power should not be there, either from the point of view of the farmer, or from the point of the view of even the Government

I think today in our country the Food Corporation of India, the State Food Corporations which have been started by the various State Governments and all the public storage systems put together are holding nearly 10 million tonnes of foodgrains. I had put the figure at 16 million, it could be more. So, we have got the highest amount of stock of foodgrains, but has the Government, through the State Governments and the Food Corporation of India, tried to evaluate the storage of these foodgrains obtained from the cultivator at the levy price which is considered to be a fair price from all other points of view, but which is not necessarily the market price? On the basis of the limited personal intimate knowledge which I have, I can say that one-fourth of the foodgrains stored by the Karnataka State Food Corporation is not in a good condition. The hon. Minister can send a study team.

Therefore, you have on the one side deprived the farmer of a fair price which he could have got by making his own arrangements even with the usurious man in between, or at least used it to feed some people or cattle, but you have held it under the system of control, and you are not able to sell it. This, that and the other orders are to come, I understand the handicaps of the system under which Government functions, but then you have deprived the farmer for the explicit purpose of helping the consumer, and actually you are destroying it in your storage. Will the hon. Minister kindly depute a study team, at least to those areas where specific recorded complaints have emerged, to see the condition of the foodgrains stored there? Considering the nature of the distributing apparatus, I feel that there are a number of issues involved in this So, I hope the necessary exercise will be undertaken by Government

श्री अमरनाथ विद्यालंकार (चंडीगढ़): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, थोड़े समय मे बहुत कुछ कहना है। जो विधेयक हमारे सामने रखा गया है उस का तो मैं समर्थन करता हूं और जो मकसद है उस से भी हम लोग सहमत हैं। लेकिन असली बात इमप्लीमेंटेशन की है कि किस तरह से इमप्लमेंटेशन हो रहा है और व्यवहार मे हम क्या देखते हैं। इस के ऊपर विचार करने की आवश्यकता है। यह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण विषय है और जो 20 सूत्री प्रोग्राम है उस के अन्दर भी इस को काफ़ी महत्व दिया गया है। लेकिन नीचे जा कर, ग्रास रूट लेविल पर जा कर आप देखें, जहां गांवों मे गरीब रहते हैं आया उन्हें इसेंशियल

सुबह और तमाम जरूरतें जिन्दगी की चीजें आसानी से मिल रही हैं या नहीं, इस पर अगर विचार करें और जा कर देखें तो आप को मालूम होगा कि हम लोगों को वह संतोष नहीं दे पाये जो कि हम देना चाहते हैं और जिस के लिये सरकार प्रयत्न भी कर रही है।

जैसे आप ने पावर्स अपने हाथ में लीं और उस को नीचे डेलीगेट करते हैं, और जैसा एक साथी ने कहा कि कलेक्टर के पास जो पावर जाती है उस को कलेक्टर इस्तेमाल नहीं करते हैं, बल्कि इंसपेक्टर के लेबिल पर अधिकारी लोग उन पावर्स को इस्तेमाल करते हैं और वही तमाम आप को रिपोर्ट्स भी भेजते हैं। उस लेबिल पर जा कर देखते हैं तो पाते हैं कि चाहे देहात हो, चाहे गरीब मजदूर के पास जायें, चाहे भूखे नंगे के पास जायें, सब एक ही शिकायत करते हैं कि आप की नीति ठीक है, इंन्दिरा जी बहुत कुछ कर रही हैं, लेकिन हमारे हाथ में कुछ नहीं आता है, हमे कुछ मिलता नहीं है।

हमें यह समझ लेना चाहिए कि जनता की भलाई के लिए हम जो काम करना चाहते हैं, वे ब्यूरोक्रेसी की मार्फत नहीं होंगे, क्योंकि हम ने उस को इस तरह ट्रेन नहीं किया है, उस में ऐसी तब्दीली नहीं की है कि वह जनता की सेवा का एक मही और एफ़िशेंट इन्सट्रूमेंट बन सके। हमारी ब्यूरोक्रेटिक मशीनरी पुराने ढर्रे पर चल रही है। मैं ऊपर के अफ़सरों की बात नहीं करता हूं। वे शिक्षित लोग हैं और वे ठीक भावना से काम करते हैं। लेकिन सरकारी कर्मचारियों के निचले तबके में करप्शन चलती है।

एसेंशल सप्लाई के महकमे में बहुत करप्शन है। मैंने कुछ इंसपैक्टरों को यह कहते सुना है कि अब बड़े बड़े अफ़सर सीधे करप्शन नहीं करते है, वे हमें कहते हैं कि पैसा लाओ। अगर हम उन की बात नहीं मानते हैं, तो वे हमें कई तरह से परेशान करते हैं। वे लोग हमारी मार्फत करप्शन करते हैं। वे अपने हाथ तो साफ़ रखते हैं और जब कभी कोई मुसीबत आती है, तो हम पर आती है।

इन कामों के लिए सैंट्रल गवर्नमेंट तमाम जिम्मेदारी स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स पर डाल देती है और स्टेट गवर्नमेंट यह जिम्मेदारी इंस्पैक्टर आदि छोटे सरकारी कर्मचारियों पर डाल देती है। इस हालत में हमें कोई रास्ता निकालना है कि हमारा डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन सिस्टम ठीक तरह से कुछ काम करे। या तो कुछ विषयों को कानकेन्ट सबजेक्ट बना कर सैंट्रल गवर्नमेंट अपने हाथ में पावर ले, या वह स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स को मजबूर करे कि वे इस बारे में ज्यादा ध्यान रखें।

आज हालत यह है कि हम देहात के आदमियों से एग्रीकल्चरल प्रोड्यूस तो ले लेते है, लेकिन उन्हें इंडस्ट्रियल प्रोड्यूस मुहैया नहीं होती है। गावों के लोग हम से यह शिकायत करते हैं कि आप हम से सब कुछ ले लेते है, हम देश की सेवा करना चाहते हैं, लेकिन आप हमें इंडस्ट्रियल प्रोड्यूस दिलाने का कोई साधन कीजिए।

जहां तक कीमतों का सम्बन्ध है, दिल्ली शहर में हालत यह है कि दुकानदार पहले तो कीमतें बहुत ऊंची रखते हैं, और फिर लिख देते हैं कि प्रधान मंत्री के हुक्म पर, 20 नुकाती प्रोग्राम पर अमल करने के लिए, हम ने अपनी कीमतों में 15 या 20 परसेंट कमी कर दी है। अफ़सरों से मिल-जुल कर उन्होंने यह हवा बना दी है कि यहां सब ने कीमतें कम कर दी हैं। यह जो धोखेबाजी चल रही है, उस से हमें सावधान रहना है। यह काम हमारे इंसपैक्टरों और अन्य नीचे के कर्मचारियों के जरिये होता है।

सरकार कानून बनाये, लेकिन कानून तभी काम करेगा, जब वह इस बात का ध्यान रखेगी कि उस की मशीनरी नीचे

(श्री अवरनाथ विद्यालंकार)

के लेवल पर, जहां उस का ताल्लुक आम जनता के साथ, मैन इन दि स्ट्रीट के साथ है, कैसे काम कर रही है । अगर सरकार ऐसा नहीं करेगी, तो ये सारे कानून रखे रह जायेंगे ।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI A. C GEORGE) Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, during the long debate on this vital amendment to an important Act, I must confess that the hon Members were extremely cooperative and I am thankful for the unanimous support which was offered by this august House to this amending Bill

The general tenor of the debate was that even when all the hon Members unanimously appreciated the intention behind this move, quite a few of them cautioned the Government that the implementation has to be careful There were apprehensions that it may be misused there was a feeling that perhaps the entire success depends not only on the wording of the Act or the amendment but on the spirit in which it is implemented specially as many of my learned friends pointed out we are handing over powers from Parliament to State Governments and State Governments to district authorities Government do take note of this word of caution, it is a well-intentioned warning, and we do take note of the various other suggestions also given by the hon Members

About the different provisions of this legislation, some genuine doubts have been expressed by some hon friends I will start with Mr Naik, who spoke towards the end of the debate He has expressed his own fears as to how it affects the farmer, he was talking about 'the whole or part of it' I may bring it to his notice that this is only an enabling provision In the case of a rice mill, say, in Punjab the extent of levy is as high as 90 per cent, but in the case of small cultivators—I am sure the hon Member is aware of this—they are normally exempted from the levy That is why, we use the term 'graded system of levy' because, after a particular ceiling, graded levy operates All the same, we do take note of what was mentioned by Mr Naik As I have said, this is only an enabling clause—'where the whole or part .' Being an enabling clause—and we take note of all the fears and apprehensions expressed by him—it will be implemented and executed as per the provisions of the other clauses Our intention is not to harass the farmers, especially the smallest amongst them, it is our intention that the levy is taken from the big farmer Even in implementation, I can assure the House, we will be considerate when we tackle matters connected with poor farmers who may not be aware of every legislation and all other rules and regulations

As has been pointed out, we do want to handle the trade and industry when they show signs of going in the wrong way We take pride—and even the worst critics concede this—that in this country we have been able to contain the inflation and bring down prices and stabilise them at a reasonable level In October, 1974 when we were having an inflationary rate of nearly 30 per cent and the whole sale price index was nearly 332, we had certain very rigid enforcement measures taken by the Home Ministry and the Finance Ministry, and some positive measures were taken for streamlining the public distribution system On 26th June, Emergency was declared, and on that day the wholesale price index was 312 During the past one year, we have been able to bring down the prices to a reasonable level In this House, on more than two or three occasions, I have expressed the view that it is not the intention of the Government, especially when we deal with agricultural commodities, to bring about a crash in prices I do not want to tell the House every day that yesterday the price was 20, to-

day it is 19 and tomorrow it will be 18 and all that. That is not our intention. Our intention is not to bring down the prices every day; we do not want to bring about a crash in prices. Our intention is to bring down prices to a reasonable level and see that prices are stabilised at that level. The basic purpose is to see that the consumer gets at a reasonable price and the farmer gets a remunerative and encouraging price; it should be remunerative so that he may go in for the next cultivation. Otherwise, we may be happy with low prices this year, but the farmers will not have the incentive for producing more, and next year we may have to pay for it..... (*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER: Only the consumers are being looted.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: I thought the hon. Members would appreciate our basic intentions which I was mentioning.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah): Intentions are good.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: That is precisely why I said that we take note of the caution given by the members in respect of implementation. I was explaining the intention and I was accepting the warning given by the Members that implementation is the most important thing.

Up to March and April we were able to bring down the prices rather steadily and bring it down to a particular level when the wholesale price index which was 332 in September 1974, 312 on the eve of the Emergency, was brought down to 283 which was the price level existing exactly 24 months prior to that. This is a unique record. But there was some feeling that in some items the farmer was not getting a remunerative price. I might bring it to the notice of this august House that at that time there was a criticism and a hue and cry was raised that in some of the farming and producing areas like Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and even Maharashtra in one item, that is groundnut, since the prices came down to a level of Rs. 3.75 per kg. for the groundnut oil, the groundnut price was not remunerative, that we must give a support price, we must export, we must take remedial measures and that we must remove the glut. Well-intentioned suggestions. Then certain remedial measures had to be taken. Even to-day in the basic items of wheat, rice and other foodgrains, I am sure hon. Members will agree with me that it is almost on a plateau, rather steady and stable. There may be a small fluctuation this side and that side, but, by and large, the reports from all over the country are that at least in foodgrains the prices are rather stable. Mr Naik was pointing out that we have a super burper crop. We have a comfortable situation and if there is any particular pocket of scarcity or difficult area, if it is brought to the notice of the government, I am sure—some members are saying that there may be a few pockets or areas where there may be some difficulties—we are in a very comfortable position and we need not be apologetic and we need not take any alibi. If there is any pocket of scarcity, the government is in a position to remedy the situation....

DR. RANEN SEN (Barasat): Why then the prices are rising when there is no scarcity?

SHRI A. C GEORGE: If you could specifically point out one item—I am not saying that in this vast country everywhere it is a paradise, there may be, due to transportation difficulties or flood situation or some other bottlenecks some areas where there may be difficulties. But if it is brought to the notice of the government, we have a very comfortable stock position and naturally we can take remedial measures.

During the past twom months, there was some difficulty felt about edible oils. As I explained in the House yesterday and on quite a few occa-

[Shri A. C. George]

sions, we are taking some measures to see that for the next two weeks when we expect the new crop to come in, the supply position is kept at an even level and even ad hoc measures are taken to see that till the new crop arrives, till the 15th September or so, we are quite alert and alive to this problem.

There was a point expressed by my friend, Mr. Goswami, that in this amendment, the provision regarding original and copying the documents will cause hardship. Sir, there are quite a few instances when our trade—some of these people when they are caught, are very clever—were tampering with the records. In a meeting of the different States, the Civil Supply Commissioners, Food Department officials and the Ministers were very emphatic and there was a unanimous request from all the States that some changes were necessary and that there were quite a few cases when even guilty people went scotfree. So, in this context and because, according to the Indian Evidence Act, the original has to be given the weightage, and only in that context we have made a provision that the original may be retained by the prosecution and copies be given. I had said that there might be some difficulties but in the matter of implementation we will see that this type of hardship does not occur and the cases are disposed of as quickly as possible If the person is innocent, we will see to it that his case is proved but, till that time, since various instances are there where the originals were tampered with, we may be constrained to retain the originals. But, as I said, in the implementation, not only this point but every other point mentioned by the hon. Members have been taken note of and we will see that the hardship is minimised to people who are genuinely by some chance innocent.

16.59 hrs.

[SHRI P. PARTHASARATHY *in the Chair*]

Just because the monsoon happens to to be delayed or a bit late, some of the traders were just waiting on the wings to get hold of the earliest opportunity when they could exploit the situation. If there is slight delay in the monsoon, they think, this is the best time to do hoarding and cause artificial scarcity. On this occasion, when we are passing an important legislation, I request trade and industry to reconcile themselves to the spirit of democracy instead of trying to indulge in guerilla warfare or skirmishes thinking that opportunities will come when they can exploit the situation.

17.00 hrs.

Certain points were made about prices of articles going up. I am not trying to impress this House with statistics. But what I say is that let us not be panciky. I will give figures of the latest wholesale price index. The latest figure of 14th August is 309. At this time last year this was 311 1. While saying this I am not saying that we could in any way be complacent, but what I say is that this phenomenon should not make us panicky at all. Also the fact that prices have been brought out and we have brought down inflation should not also make us complacent. So, in our approach towards these essential commodities we are trying to be more vigilant, more alert and more stringent, in dealing with trade and industry throughout.

This brings us to a certain line of thinking, namely, the consumer protection movement. The consumer protection movement has to be more elaborate, more comprehensive and more effective. Even this legislation is only a part of this consumer protection movement. When we see this in the international context even this Consumer Protection Movement itself is a movement of fairly recent origin. It is a comparatively new phenomenon. Even in western countries this movement is only recently

developing. Sometime back I had an opportunity to visit some of the countries where consumer protectior movement was gaining strengthen and momentum. In Sweden they have got consumer ombudsman where there is constant vigil over the quality, qantity and price charged to the consumers.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN (Tellicherry): Here in Delhi we had a big consumer protection movement which resulted in the formation of a Coffee House in Connaugt place. Now this has been smashed and nodbody has cared to afford an alternative site for them. Is this the way of protecting consumer movement, I don't know.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: Smashing of a building which perhaps was in an unauthorised area cannot be pointed out as an anti-consumer measure. I also share the feeling for coffee just as Mr. Chandrappan and all facilities to be provided in this regard will only be appreciated by me and encouraged by me. In Denmark, the consumer ombudsman during the last three or four years has made a real impact.

In U.K. it is very interesting to note that for any item, if a manufacturer wants to increase the price even by the slightest level, he has to take the permission from the Prices Commission. In the U.S.A., the Consumer Productivity Council and the Federal Trade Commission are making effective efforts in the matter of consumer protection.

You are aware of the movement of the consumer awareness that has happened in this country. I shall spend two or three minutes on the movement to tell you how the movement could be built up in a country. That can only be done by the Consumer awareness. In March and April, the prices came down to a comparatively low level. There were nearly 2.5 lakhs public distribution centres that were mentioned which, I concede, are not enough in a normal situation. We are havnig a very very disappointing experience with our villagers who have stopped patronising the public distribution outlet—may be 2.5 lakhs public distribution centres are not adequate or may be, these 2.5 lakhs public distribution points were not properly patronised by the consumers.

This is understandable because in our village the system of trading is by our retailers who are also in a way small bankers giving credit and getting the payment at the end of a week and all that. The public distribution system can grow to a level of normalcy and be sustained and be an effective service to the country only if there is consumer awareness to see that this is patronised also. It is a long process. I was only mentioning that any consumer movement can only come from the consumer awareness and the consumer resistance. In a country like ours, this is a congenial atmosphere where different measures can really be effective, where we cannot quarrel with the instruments and the measures that are available.

This is the time which is best suited to biuld up the public distribution system as well as the consumer movement. We are thinking of, as some hon. Members pointed out here, bringing in a comprehensive legislation to take care of the various consumer protection measures. Regarding adulteration, there were so many complaints. Also there were so many complaints regarding underweighment, undermeasurement and cheating in weights. Also there were lots of complaints during the past one year. By the Packaging Commodities Regulation Order, to some extent, it has been checked. But, I do not think that it is completely satisfactory. About the cheating in publicity and claiming a lot of exaggerated claims or trying to cheat or decive the consumers by wrong advertisements and wrong publicity campaign, I would say that these are all diffe-

[Shri A. C. George]

rent defects in our trading systems. About the distribution costs, we are absolutely clear in our minds. *(Interruptions)*. In order to bring down the prices at the consumers level, the cost of manufacture, we do find an interesting phenomenon where even after this passes on from the hands of the manufacturer, there are various tiers of distribution, the distribution agents, about which Mr. Mayathevan was saying—the existent, non-existent and imaginary and yet-to-be-born sole selling agents—which do not serve any social purpose There may perhaps be some arrangement between them and their brother-in-law. That is why I say that sole selling agents do not serve any social purpose. They will serve only the wholesalers, the retailers and so on and so forth but the time it passes from the different existent and non-existent, different required and not required tiers of distribution and, ultimately, when it comes into the hands of the consumers, the prices may not have any relevance at all as to what gain has gone to the manufacturer—the company. We have also identified a few items of essential commodities and we shall watch their distribution right from the manufacturing level to the consumer level to take care of the prices Our intention is to closely examine how far the existing sole selling agencies serve the purpose relevant to the social situation

As regards the socalled commission agents, the retailers, in a big country like ours, from the manufacturing points there is a long haulage running to 1500 to 2000 to miles or so. I do concede that certain tiers of distribution points may be needed. But, if it does not serve any purpose at all other than passing of a certain commission back to the consumer or for sharing it by a certain arrangement, we shall closely scrutinise the distribution agencies of the major essential items and shall take up the remedial measures.

I am thankful to the House for giving very encouraging comments as well as suggestions for this operation which is of topmost and of vital importance because in the 20-Point Economic Programme presented by our Prime Minister before the people, the very first items is how best to see that at least the bare essential minimum consumption items by the masses are given at a reasonable price and they are assured of their required quantity.

As the topmost item of topmost priority for the common man, I hope the spirit behind this legislation which is only a humble attempt, will be appreciated and hon members will co-operate and help in building up a movement which will ultimately serve the country

DR. RANEN SEN: He was speaking about delayed monsoon and scarcity pockets Is it not a fact that prices started rising in March when there was no question of monsoon and no question of scarcity? There was abundance in the country then

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: The position is very clear. The prices of the items which we are speaking of started going up only in May.

DR. RANEN SEN: No, no.

SHRI A. C GEORGE: I cannot agree to it. The figures are very telling The lowest figure of the wholesale price index was during the last week of March and the first week of April. It stood there till 15 April. Subsequently slowly certain items went up Even when it was going up, in regard to one item which has been long debated, groundnut, the prices started going up only towards the end of May, because I distinctly remember a telegram from Gujarat saying that we may have to offer support price. This was in the first week of May.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: In the case of seizure, you have given the entire power to the Collector whereas in the case of confiscation, there is a right of appeal to a judicial authority. The former may lead in many cases to corruption. Would you have fresh thinking on having an appellate authority or some other body to scrutinise the Collector's order and see that it is proper?

Then as regards documents, evidence is based always on the original. You can always ask the other party to produce the original in a court of law and the court will draw an adverst inference against the party if the original is not produced.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: I do appreciate the spirit of the hon. Member's suggestion. Seizure is only the first stage of the confiscation proceeding. All cases of seizure may not end in confiscation. The Collector may decide that the seizure was not valid or necessary or there was no infringement of the Act when the proceedings started. Though I find it difficult to accept the changes suggested by the hon. member, I can assure the House that proper care will be taken to see that the powers that are handed over through the State to the district authorities are exercised carefully. Even in the matter of enlarging the definition of 'Collector' it is not below the rank of Sub-Divisional Officer. But extreme care will be taken to see that these powers are not misused.

SHRI M. C. DAGA: From Delhi, you will administer the Sub-Divisional Officer in a district!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please cooperate The question is:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration".

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause by clause consideration. The question is:

> "That clause 2 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3—(*Amendment of Section 3*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause 3. There are two amendments by Shri Bhogendra Jha and one by Shri B. V. Naik.

SHRI B. V. NAIK (Kanara): Sir, I am moving my amendment No. I which reads as follows. I beg to move:

> Page 2, line 8,—
>
> *for* "person or class of persons"
>
> *substitute* "public persons or class of public persons". (1)

Sir, the relevant portion in clause 3 reads as follows:

> "in the case of any such commodity which is likely to be produced or received by him, to sell the whole or a specified part of such commodity when produced or received by him, to the Central Government or a State Government or to an officer or agent of such Government or to a Corporation owned or controlled by such Government or to such other person or class of persons ..."

I request the hon Minister to accept my amendment which will make it read "such other public person or class of public persons". I have not understood what "the class of persons" in this clause means. When I say a 'public person', I mean this. We have a large number of people who have grown up, individual private enterprises, who have grown up in this country on the fringe of our public sector, on the fringe of the

[Shri B. V. Naik]

public works department and forest department, public sector enterprise in the food trade. In the case of a corporation they have their accounts and records and they are accountable ultimately to the corporation, accountant general and controller general. In the case of a firm, private limited or some other concern, it is also auditable and accountable to somebody at least. But in the case of a private being, I am dealing with food and such other essential commodities handed over to me. The collector takes about 100 tonnes and hands it over to Mr. X. What does he do with that commodity? What is the measure of the control of your department?

What is the private person's accountability? Have I registered my point?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made your point. Than you.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: I beg to move:

Page 2, line 42,—

after "edible oils," *insert*—

"drugs, raw cotton, cotton or woollen textiles, sugar" (2)

Page 3,—

omit line 1 (3)

SHRI A. C. GEORGE This deals with food items. Please read 3(A).

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: I have my reservations about what you say. Here it is with reference to the person whose goods are seized. One thing is that controlled price shall be taken into consideration. The other thing is the reasonable price to the consumers. You have said here 'general crop prospects'. The crop prospects vary from week to week; it may be very good today but because of untimely rains or drought, it may be different, say after a week hence. It will be impossible. You cannot get hold of any officer and none will be accountable. So, this should be deleted. It will defeat the whole purpose of the Bill.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: I am sorry I cannot accept any of these amendments.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will now put amendments Nos. 1, 2 and 3 to the vote of the House.

Amendments Nos. 1 to 3 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is.

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 4 to 9, clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI A. C. GEORGE: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill be passed."

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Sir, the minister has talked about the public distribution system. But here we have got the whole power complex of the wholesalers. Even during emergency, they have been given huge amounts by the public financial institutions to corner stocks and create artificial scarcity I am quoting the minister himself who had narrated at Bombay that hoarding and blackmarketing have caused the rise in prices. When the wholesale traders are given money by the State, how can they allow the small cooperatives to function. This government does not give money to the Cotton Corporation of India to purchase raw jute from the produ-

cers. Here you cannot blame nature or weather. The minister himself said that there is a bumper crop in ground nuts, other oil seeds and foodgrains. The government should pick up courage and nationalise the wholesale trade in essential commodities, particularly in foodgrains. People are not able to understand the position where the producers get for below the procurement price. I had been to several places and the people are saying, "Please see that we get the procurement price." Wheat is selling at Rs. 90 or 85 per quintal in Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan, but here the prices have risen. I have got the latest figures supplied to me on 24th August. In Bihar, the wholesale price of paddy on 7th August was Rs. 115 per quintal whereas the procurement price was Rs. 74. In Maharashtra, wheat was selling at Rs. 125 to 135 per quintal on 14th August. In U.P. it was Rs. 127. In Western UP, the people were crying that they should be given at least the procurement price of Rs 105. The worst case is in respect of cotton. In Andhra Pradesh the price was Rs. 365 and the latest price on 13th August was Rs. 472, a ·e of Rs. 107 per candy.

The other day the Minister was disputing my statements. I am purchasing from the public distribution system With your permission, I would like to lay on the Table a copy of the cash memo which shows that four kilos of mustard oil costs Rs. 34.65 at the Super Bazar. It is difficult for us to understand this. There is abundance of production and still this is the position. Their strategy is larger import of edible oils and limitation on consumption, larger import of cotton and larger release of sugar.

Is not there a total failure of the Government? Someone should be held accountable for this. Someone must have to pay for this. There should be a national policy. Now both the peasants and the consumers are looted. The present policy of the Government is harming the consumers, the producers and also the nation. Therefore, even now the Government should pick up courage to nationalise sugar, textile and jute industry and also the wholesale trade in foodgrains and other essential commodities.

I welcome this Bill, because it will strengthen the hands of the officers in dealing with certain essential commodities. But this is not the real remedy. More effective steps should be taken.

श्री इसहाक सम्भली (अमरोहा) : चेयरमैन साहब, यह बिल पास हो रहा है, इसके सिलसिले मे मैं चन्द सजेशन्स देना चाहता हूं और चाहता हू कि मिनिस्टर साहब इस के इम्प्लीमेन्टेशन मे इन बातों का खयाल रखें । हमारे जैसे बड़े मुल्क के लिए एसेंशियल कमाडिटीज की सप्लाई का सवाल एक बड़ा अहम सवाल है । यह बिल्कुल सही है, जैसा कि कई मेम्बरों ने यहा पर कहा कि इसमें यहां पर कोई पार्टी डिफरेंस नही है । अपोजीशन और कांग्रेस के सभी लोगों ने कहा है कि प्राइसेज कहां से कहा पहुंच गई हैं । मैं मालूम करना चाहता हू कि शुगर मे क्या मुसीबत आ गई, शुगर कहा चली गई ? सरकार ने एनाउन्स किया कि शुगर का एक्सपोर्ट नही करेगी ताकि वह यहा पर काम आ सके लेकिन बावजूद उसकी कीमतें बढ रही है । इसी तरह से मस्टर्ड आयल की कीमते बढ़ रही है । आपको याद होगा जिस रोज हाउस शुरू हुआ था उस रोज हमारे लीडर श्री इन्द्रजीत गुप्त और हमारे दूसरे साथियों ने कालिंग अटेंशन मूव किया था तो सरकार की तरफ़ से कहा गया था कि इसका इन्तजाम किया जायेगा । पेपर्स ने बड़ी भारी हेडिंग देकर मि० जार्ज का स्टेटमेन्ट छापा था लेकिन उसके बाद आज भी वही वायदा किया जाता है कि इसको ठीक कर दिया जायेगा । आपको मालूम है कि इन ट्रेडर्स को अगर दो तीन वीक भी मिल जाते हैं तो वे कन्ज्यूमर्स से करोड़ो रुपया लूट

[श्री इन्द्राक सम्मलो]

लेते हैं। देहली की एग्जाम्पल आपके सामने है। आप दूसरी स्टेट्स के इंटीरियर में जाइये तो देखेंगे कि किस तरह से लूट हो रही है। मैं एक एग्जाम्पल देना चाहता हूं।

आप मिडिल मैन का मुनाफा कम करना चाहते है, यह अच्छी बात है, जरूर करना चाहिये, लेकिन मैं सिर्फ एक ही मिसाल आप के सामने रखता हूं—बाटा शुद्ध एक कम्पनी है वे गरीब मोचियों से जूते बनवाते हैं, उन को 20 रुपया दे कर उस पर अपनी छाप लगा कर 59 रुपये में बेचते है। क्या कभी इस को चैक करने की कोशिश की गई? मैं इस का सुबूत दे सकता हूं आप जरा आगरा चलिये और देखिये कि ये बाटा वाले किस तरह से गरीब मेन्यूफैक्चरर्स को लूटते है।

[एक बात मैं खास तौर से ए० सी० जार्ज साहब और दूसरे मिनिस्टर साहबान से कहना चाहता हूं, मेहरबानी कर के महंगाई को जस्टीफाई करना छोड दें। शुगर के लिये कहा गया कि पूजा का त्योहार आ रहा है मौनसून देर से आई है, इसलिये दाम बढे है। इस के मायने साफ यह है कि कन्जूमर लूटा जा रहा है और उस लूट को आप जस्टिफाई करना चाहते है। मैं चाहूंगा कि आप इस पर गौर करें और उन को जस्टीफाई करना छोड दें।

आप जरा कन्जूमर इण्डैक्स को निकाल देखिये—आप को मालूम होगा कि मार्च से महंगाई शुरू हुई। क्यों शुरू हुई—वहां मानसून का सवाल नहीं था, शार्टज का सवाल नहीं था—आप इस बात को समझ लीजिये हिन्दुस्तान का व्यापारी खुशी से कीमतें कम नहीं करता जब उस की पकड-धकड शुरू हुई, डी०आई०आर० और मीसा में उस को बन्द किया जाने लगा तब उस ने कीमतें कम की। लेकिन अब क्या हालत है—जैसा मेरे साउथ इण्डिया के भाई कह रहे थे—जो लोग डी०आई०आर० और मीसा में बन्द थे, वे छोडे जा रहे हैं और जो छूट गये हैं उन्होंने फिर वही पुराना धन्धा शुरू कर दिया है। मैं अपने उत्तर प्रदेश के बारे में जानता हूं कि वहां पर जो पकडे गये थे उनको छोड दिया गया है। आप जरा वहां के चीफ मिनिस्टर साहब से पूछिये—10 करोड की आबादी के उत्तर प्रदेश में कितने आदमियों को पकडा गया था—कीमतों के मामले में—और कितनों को छोड दिया गया है। मेरा यही सुझाव है कि वह पकड जिन के जरिये से कन्जूमर को राहत मिली थी, वह पकड जिस के जरिये से इन व्यापारियों की लूट कम हो गई थी उस पकड को ढीला मत होने दीजिये। आप के 20 प्वाइन्ट प्रोग्राम का क्या हुआ। उस में सब से पहला प्वाइन्ट यही है जब कि कीमतें गिराई जायेंगी प्राइसेज में स्टेबिलिटी लाई जायेगी। 20 प्वाइन्ट प्रोग्राम का बहुत अच्छा प्रापेगेण्डा होना चाहिये हम भी यही चाहते है कि उस का एक एक प्वाइन्ट कामयाब हो। इस लिये मैं उम्मीद करता हूं कि उस का जो पहला प्वाइन्ट कीमतों के बारे में है उस का खास लिहाज रखा जायगा। अभी जैसा श्री भोगेन्द्र झा जी ने कहा है—इस का एक तरीका यह है कि जो ऐसी बुनियादी चीजें है, मेहरबानी कर के उन को नैशनलाइज कीजिये, उन की सप्लाई और डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन का काम अपने हाथ में लीजिये, तभी कन्जूमर्स लूट को रोका जा सकता है, एग्रीकल्चरिस्ट्स की लूट को रोका जा सकता है गरीब मैन्यूफैक्चरर्स की लूट को रोका जा सकता है, तब ही इस बिल को यहां पेश करने की आप की मंशा पूरी हो सकती है।

آپ کے سامنے ہے - آپ دوسری سٹیٹ کے انفارمیشن میں جائیے - تو دیکھیں گے کہ اس طرح سے لوٹ ہو رہی ہے - میں ایک ایگزامپل دینا چاہتا ہوں -

آپ مڈل مین کا منافع کم کرنا چاہتے ہیں - یہ اچھی بات ہے - ضرور کرنا چاہئے - لیکن میں ایک ہی مثال آپ کے سامنے رکھتا ہوں - ہاٹا شوز ایک کمپنی ہے - وہ غریب موچیوں سے جوتے بنواتے ہیں ان کو بیس روپیہ دیکر - اس پر اپنی چھاپ لگا کر ۵۹ روپیہ میں بیچتے ہیں - کیا کبھی اس کو چیک کرنے کی کوشش کی گئی ہے - میں اس کا ثبوت دے سکتا ہوں - آپ ذرا آگرہ چلئے اور دیکھئے کہ یہ ہاٹا والے کس طرح سے غریب موچیوں کو لوٹ رہے ہیں -

ایک بات میں خاص طور سے اے - ایس-جارج صاحب کو اور دوسرے منسٹر صاحبان سے کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ مہربانی کرکے مہنگائی کو جسٹیفائی کرنا چھوڑ دیں - شوگر کے لئے کہا گیا کہ پوجا کا تہوہار آ رہا ہے - سون سون دیر سے آئی ہے - اس لئے دام بڑھے ہیں - اس کے معنی صاف یہ ہیں- کہ کنجیومر لوٹا جا رہا ہے - اور اس لوٹ کو آپ جسٹیفائی کرنا چاہتے ہیں - میں چاہونگا کہ آپ اس پر غور کریں - اور اس کو جسٹیفائی کرنا چھوڑ دیں -

آپ ذرا کنجیومر انڈیکس کو نکال کر دیکھئے - آپ کو معلوم ہوگا کہ مارچ سے مہنگائی شروع ہوئی-کیوں

[شری اسحاق سنبھلی (امروہہ):

چیرمین صاحب - یہ بل پاس ہو رہا ہے - اس کے سلسلے میں میں، چند سجیشنز دینا چاہتا ہوں - اور چاہتا ہوں کہ منسٹر صاحب اس کے امپلیمنٹیشن میں ان باتوں کا خیال رکھیں - او جیسے بڑے ملک کے لئے اسینشل کموڈیٹیز کی سپلائی کا سوال ایک بڑا اہم سوال ہے یہ بالکل صحیح ہے - جیسا کہ کئی ممبروں نے یہاں پر کہا ہے کہ اس میں یہاں پر کوئی پارٹی قفریلس نہیں ہے اپوزیشن اور کانگریس کے سبھی لوگوں نے کہا ہے کہ پرائیمسز کہاں سے کہاں پہنچ گئیں ہیں - میں معلوم کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ شوگر میں کیا مصیبت آ گئی - شوگر کہاں چلی گئی - سرکار نے اناونس کیا ہے شوگر کا ایسپورٹ نہیں کریگی - تاکہ وہ یہاں پر کام آ سکے - لیکن اس کے باوجود اسکی قیمت بڑھ رہی ہے -

اسی طرح سے مسٹرڈ آئل کی قیمت بڑھ رہی ہے - آپ کو یاد ہوگا جس روز ہاؤس شروع ہوا تھا اس روز ہمارے لیڈر شری اندر جیت گپتا اور ہمارے دوسرے ساتھیوں نے کالنگ اٹینشن کیا تھا - تو سرکار کی طرف سے کہا گیا تھا کہ اس کا انتظام کیا جائیگا - پیپر نے بڑی بھاری میڈنگز دے کر منسٹر جارج کا سٹیٹ میںٹ چھاپا تھا - لیکن اس کے بعد آج بھی وہی وعدہ کیا جاتا ہے کہ اس کو ٹھیک کر دیا جائیگا - آپ کو معلوم ہے کہ ان ٹریڈرز کو اگر دو تین ویک بھی مل جاتے ہیں تو وہ کلڑیوسوز سے کروڑوں روپیہ لوٹ لیتے ہیں - دھلی کی ایگزامپل

سٹیبلیٹی لائی جائیگی - ۲۰ پوائنٹ
پروگرام کا بہت اچھا پروپگھنڈا ہونا
چاہئے - ہم بھی یہی چاہتے ہیں -
کہ اس کا ایک ایک پوائنٹ کامیاب
ہو - اس لئے میں امید کرتا ہوں -
کہ اس کا جو پہلا پوائنٹ قیمتوں کے
بارے میں ہے - اس کا خاص لحاظ
رکھا جائیگا - ابھی جیسا شری
بھائیندر جھا جی نے کہا ہے اس کا
ایک طریقہ یہ ہے کہ جو ایسی
بنیادی چیزیں ہوں - مہربانی کرکے
ان کو نیشنلائز کیجئے - ان کی
سپلائی اور ڈسٹریبیوشن کا کام اپنے ہاتھ
میں لیجئے - تبھی کنزیومر لوٹ کو
روکا جا سکتا ہے - غریب مینوفیکچرز
کی لوٹ کو روکا جا سکتا ہے - تبھی
اس بل کا یہاں پیش کرنے کی آپ
کی منشا پوری ہو سکتی ہے -]

SHRI P G MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I shall be very brief I have heard a few speeches in this debate, and I want to add a few significant points.

The whole difficulty is that Government think that merely by legislation they can control or solve the problem If mere legislation were to bring about solutions, I am sure the hon. Minister and his colleagues would have brought many more Bills of this nature.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If there is no legislation, you will say they have no powers.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: I am thinking of legislation which cannot be implemented honestly and fully. Moreover, my emphasis is on the

[شری اسحاق سنبھلی [اٹاوہ]]
شروع ہوئی - وہاں مون سون کا سوال
نہیں تھا - شورٹیج کا سوال نہیں تھا -
آپ اس بات کو سمجھ لیجئے -
ہندوستان کا بھوپاری خوشی سے قیمتیں
کم نہیں کرتا - جب اسکی پکڑ ڈھکڑ
شروع ہوئی - ٹی - آئی - آر اور میسا
میں اس کو بلند کیا جانے لگا تب
اس نے قیمتیں کم کیں - لیکن اب
کیا حالت ہے - جیسا میرے ساتھی
انڈیا کے بھائی کہہ رہے تھے - جو لوگ
ٹی- آئی - آر اور میسا میں بند تھے-
وہ چھوڑے جا رہے ہیں اور جو چھوٹ
گئے ہیں انہوں نے پھر وہی پرانا دھندہ
شروع کر دیا ہے - میں اپنے اتر پردیش
کے بارے میں جانتا ہوں - وہاں پھر
جو پکڑے گئے تھے - ان کو چھوڑ دیا
گیا ہے - آپ ذرا وہاں کے چیف
منسٹر صاحب سے پوچھئے - ۱۰ کروڑ
کی آبادی سے اتر پردیش میں کتنے
آدمیوں کو پکڑا گیا تھا - قیمتوں کے
معاملے میں اور کتنوں کو چھوڑ دیا
گیا ہے - میرا سمجھاؤ ہے کہ وہ پکڑ
جس کے ذریعے کنزیومر کو راحت
ملی تھی - وہ پکڑ جس کے ذریعے سے
ان بھوپاریوں کی لوٹ کم ہو گئی
تھی - اس پکڑ کو ڈھیلا مت ہونے
دیجئے - آپ کے بیس پوائنٹ
پروگرام کا کیا ہوا - اس میں سب
سے پہلا پوائنٹ یہی ہے - کہ قیمتیں
گرائی جائینگی - پرائسز میں

word "mere". We must consider whether and where and when mere legislation is sufficient.

AN HON. MEMBER: What else?

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: There must be a will to implement whatever you have already legislated. I can understand the amendment if it means plugging of certain loopholes, if it means improvements in the right direction, but it will not help if you merely increase the powers of the bureaucracy, as this particular legislation seeks to do, as we have seen in the last 14 months. In fact, today, 26th August, it is exactly 14 months since the Government of India declared an emergency in this country. By this, they are not only extending the powers of the executive, but what is more important and much worse, they are increasing the powers of bureaucracy at all levels. There is no appeal; there is no justice anywhere. In this atmosphere, are they going to get the consumers' interests protected merely by adding to the powers of bureaucracy and the administration? That is the point which, I think, the Minister will have to answer, if not to us, at least to his conscience. I am sure, he has one. That is one aspect of the matter.

The other thing is about the price rise. No matter what Government claim or say, the propaganda is one thing but the truth is another. Liking a thing to happen is one thing but the reality is another. The reality is that price rise in our country, in most of the things, has not been going down but in some cases, the price rise has been showing an upward tendency. Not only that. Accompanied with that, there are also inadequacies of supplies. I am coming from Gujarat. I know how people are suffering for want of oil. Oil has suddenly disappeared. You will be surprised that only two months back, we were told that the groundnut crop in Gujarat was fantastic, phenomenal and unprecedented and, within two months, with Id, Puja and Diwali, all these festivals coming very near, we are told that oil has suddenly gone somewhere else. I do not know where it has gone. The whole point is this. Where is you system? Where is the implementation of your system?

My next point is about the public distribution system. After all, it is meant mainly for the weaker sections of the community. Only yesterday, I attended a meeting in Ahmedabad in the Collector's office, the monthly meeting of the MPs and the MLAs from the District, and I said, the same thing there that not enough is being done to care for the economically weaker sections of the community. When it comes to talking in terms of propaganda on radio or television, the Government goes out massively in terms of justice for the weaker sections of the community but, when it comes to the implementation part of it, not even an ounce of that is done. I agree with my hon. friend, Shri Sambhali, that we must awaken our people to the need for doing something for the weaker sections of the community. The propaganda is necessary. But if you only go on doing propaganda, not implementing what you say, then you are creating a very bad situation which will recoil not only on you but on ourselves, on Parliament, on Government, on the entire country and everywhere.

That is why I am requesting the Government, if they really want the interests of weaker sections of the community to be looked after, they should see that the weaker sections of the community are not cheated, on one hand, by the merchants and, on the other hand, by artificial scarcity of goods, essential commodities suddenly vanishing somewhere. You must also control the practice of profiteering. All this will have to be done by a careful, systematic and planned approach by the Government. Therefore, in veiw of these approaching festivals, something has to be done.

[Shri P G Mavalankar]

But it is not only a question of festivals Do you want every day of 365 days a festival day Only then you will give us some relief? Then we must pray for everyone of the 365 days to be a festival day But that will be reducing the whole thing to absurdity

The Government will have to be careful in seeing that essential commodities do not go out of stock and circulation or out of supply that weaker sections of the community are properly helped that the price rise is controlled and that in spite of Emergency and Emergency or no Emergency the bureaucracy and the administration do not get an upper hand over the consumers and that they do not act in a way which is both arbitrary and limitless

These are my points I am not really opposing the Bill in substance But I am mentioning these points to say that unless you look after all these things it will be only adding to more difficulties rather than solving some of the difficulties

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI A C GEORGE) Mr Chairman Sir even at the third reading of the Bill I am glad that distinguished Members came forward with not only important suggestions but excellent spirit of cooperation As Shri Sambhali pointed out this is one point of discussion which must go beyond narrow barriers of the party politics because what we are discussing or what we are trying to do is to facilitate distribution of essential items of mass consumption even to the poorest man at least to the extent of the barest limit at the most reasonable price So if this is the approach to the whole problem there cannot be any division based on party politics That is precisely why I say that I take note of all the suggestions in the best spirit

I would refer to Mr Mavalankar's point regarding festival season If you analyse the price situation that had obtained during the past 28 or 29 years, you will find that almost every year, from the end of May upto the middle of October the prices had started going up because this is normally known as the lean season before the arrival of the kharif crop

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA Does the lean season add something to the value of the article?

SHRI A C GEORGE This year, learning from the experience of the past years we have been extremely cautious As I have said during the festival season there is a tendency on the part of the traders to exploit the situation This is a five week season For example we have in the south on the 6th September Onam festival then then Ganesh Chaturthi then Diwali, then Puja in Bengal and then Id and so on What I am saying is that during this five week period we have so many important national festivals Every year during this period we see an attempt on the part of the traders to jack up the prices especially of sugar edible oils foodgrains and cloth these are the three or four items according to our analysis – and it is also common knowledge--where the traders make best efforts to exploit the situation We are taking pre emptive action advance action

Wherever there are pockets of scarcity we are trying to see with the help of the State Governments that most of the items are reached there in time, that there are no transport bottlenecks Especially after 16th July when the Finance Minister held a meeting– when prices showed signs of going up—, more than 2 240 raids have taken place, I need not say how many arrests have taken place The trade and industry now know that Government is not relaxing and is maintaining the spirit of Emergency which is mainly to take care of the interests of consumers I

can assure the House again when you are offering this cooperation by way of unanimous support to this Bill, that the Government will not relax in taking measures for consumer protection.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

17.44 hrs.

FACTORIES (AMENDMENT) BILL

MR. CHAIRMAN: We now take up the Factories (Amendment) Bill. Mr. Raghunatha Reddy.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): Sir, I beg to move*:

"That the Bill further to amend the Factories Act, 1948, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The health and happiness of the working class are the very foundations of production, productivity and progress. These essentials are not merely confined to the narrow precincts of the shop-floor but extend beyond the walls of the workshop, into the very life and living of the labour force. The main purpose of having a Factories Act is to regulate the management in the interest of the workforce. Unless the hands of the working class are safe and secure from hazards of disease and disablement, the process of manufacture can be neither perfect nor efficient. The hands that shape the production processes gradually shape and direct the destinies of a nation.

The present Factories Act was passed in 1948 and came into effect from the 1st April, 1949. The Act was last amended in 1954. The working of the Act was discussed at the Annual Conference of the Chief Inspectors of Factories. The various amendments proposed at the Conference and the suggestions made at the 16th Session of the Labour Ministers' Conference for appointment of safety officers and for enquiry into fatal accidents, etc., have been examined by the Government in consultation with the State Governments and all-India organizations of workers and employers. The Bill, which is before this august House, incorporates amendments in respect of which there is a fairly large measure of agreeent amongst the various interests.

I now proceed to explain briefly the nature and scope of some of the important amendments:—

(a) It is proposed to widen the scope of the existing definition of the term 'worker' in the Factories Act so as to cover certain categories of persons employed in factories but so far taken to be outside the protective clauses of the Factories Act. Contract labour of all employed directly or through any agency with or without the knowledge of the principal employer will be covered by this Bill before the House.

It is proposed to insert an 'explanation' to clause (m) of section 2 of the Act so as to include all the workers in different relays in a day for the purpose of bringing such factories within coverage of the Act.

In certain exceptional circumstances, workers may have to work near unfenced machinery. The present provisions concerning this type of work are proposed to be amended so as to clearly define these circumstances and to spell out the precautions to be adopted in such cases.

Experience has clearly indicated the advantages in assigning the staff func-

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri Raghunatha Reddy]

tions relating to safety to a competent safety specialist It is proposed to insert a new section requiring the appointment of safety officers in factories wherein one thousand or more workers are employed or where any manufacturing process or operation is carried on which exposes the workers to a serious risk of bodily injury poisoning or disease

Additional powers are proposed to be given to Inspectors to issue orders in certain circumstances where the condition of the building or part of the building of the factory may be detrimental to the health and welfare of the workers

It is essential that fatal accidents receive top priority in the matter of making investigations and initiating control measures by the Inspectors Investigations of all fatal accidents within a month of their occurrence would be required by an amendment which has been suggested

Similarly in the case of fatal and serious accidents involving contravention of any of the provisions of Chapter VI or rules framed thereunder or under Section 87 a minimum penalty is being proposed

The minimum number of women employees is proposed to be reduced to thirty from the existing limit of fifty so as to require the occupier to provide for the facilities of creches

The entire nation is at present geared up towards a single objective of securing uninterrupted process of production We have therefore to take measures for making the work places safe and humane so that the worker can give his best without any sense of fear or insecurity

I may quote our beloved Rashtrapatiji who observed on the occasion of the last National Safety Awards function

> Industrial safety is not only an important aspect of the process of production but also the measure of the intrinsic worth of our industrial civilisation We must keep this in mind while transforming our economy into a modern and industrialised one"

The productive forces that technology can generate depend not only on the machines but also on the skill and psychology of the men who work with the machines A worker suffering from a feeling of insecurity cannot contribute his best There is sometimes an erroneous notion that safety measures are not compatible with higher productivity As a matter of fact quite the contrary is the case An unprotected work-place is an unproductive work-place The fruits of all development of industrial prosperity and of industrial peace promoted primarily by the safety and health of the working class are ultimately shared by a grateful nation I need not take more time of the House by elaborating all the detailed amendments covered by the Bill Enough if it is to mention here that every amendment proposed here goes to strengthen the hands of labour speed up the wheels of industry and smoothen the relations between the management and their men

THE CHAIRMAN Motion moved

> That the Bill further to amend the Factories Act 1948 as passed by Rajya Sabha be taken into consideration'

Shri Samar Mukherjee

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah) The Bill which has been introduced here has a background and that background is to have more production We know from a deep study of various Acts and amendments that either there is some objective compulsion behind these amendments or Bills or Acts or there is some background of conflict of interests or struggle between interests or in other words a struggle between various classes The Hon Minister has stated that now the whole nation is engaged in more production So in order to facilitate that, some conditions have become necessary

for the safety of the workers so that they can contribute to the further production with some sense of safety and security. Behind these amendments, he has stated, there are recommendations of the conferences of inspectors on safety measures. But what he did not tell us is that the measure brought in here in the form of these amendments really do not bring about any basic change in the condition of safety and security in the factories.

The Hon. Minister said that the workers should feel that the whole nation is concerned in their safety and security. But, Sir, the recommendations or the amendments brought in by this Bill are just slight variations in the old Act. What are the factors that contribute to the large scale accidents in factories? It is due to the utter negligence on the part of the employers and the management for the safety and security of the workers It is due to their utter negligence in maintaining proper conditions of work, which various organisations and trade unions have suggested. It has been our experience that despite various Acts and provisions, despite demands and recommendations, the management generally refuse to follow those rules and regulations and thereby the safety and security of the workers get utterly neglected.

Some months back we discussed the Chasnala tragedy. That incident revealed before the whole country how safety and security provisions had been utterly neglected. Even after Chasnala tragedy, when the entire national consciousness was roused, when there was universal demand that government should be very strict in the observance of these safety measures, nothing has happened and there has been no change. There has been a second Chasnala incident after that I have got another report that there is a third Chasnala incident. We now understand that the Chasnala coalmine has completely stopped working Almost daily we come across in the newspapers incidents of this nature, deaths involved, etc. It is a fact that our rate of accidents is the highest in the world, when we compare our country with the other countries of the world. India occupies a leading place in regard to the number of such accidents.

I am not comparing with the socialist countries where the entire system is totally different. There, the working classes are the masters of the entire society; they are the masters of production and the entire management. So, in socialist countries, these types of accidents are almost eliminated though occasionally there may be some accidents. The State uses its power to take quick measures not only to attend to the accidents but they also take remedial measures to remove the factors permanently.

I am not comparing with the socialist countries now here because we are far away from socialism. Even in comparison with the other capitalist countries, the percentage of accidents is much less in highly developed capitalist countries. This point was raised in the other House by some hon. Members. And a reply was given by the Minister. He tried to give explanation on some technological grounds because there the technology is sophisticated, that is why there is less accident. But, here, in our country too, we have very much advanced in technology but there has not been so much reduction in the accidents. The main thing is the attitude of the employer as well as Government. Here we are under a capitalist system which is based on the exploitation and here the employers, the capitalists, are interested in cheap labour. In America, some months before the leader of one Indian Delegation, an industrialist, has publicly told that in India, now the climate for investment is most favourable because there is cheap labour and no working class movement, because of emergency, the protests of the workers against this type of total negligence are completely suppressed and there is no opposition and here labour is the cheapest. I read one report in the *Hindustan Times* some days before that Birla has told the

[Shri Samar Mukherjee]

Press that he had a tour in Western countries and there all big business houses including the multi-national corporations had admitted that in India, now the time for investment was the best Now, I say that this emergency is being used against the working class for defending the interests of the capitalists.

That is why the interest in safety measures is a far cry on the part of employers from what the Government measures are as advocated in this amending legislation

MR CHAIRMAN You would like to take some more time

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE Yes, Sir

MR CHAIRMAN You may continue for another minute

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE The amendment has suggested that the fine will be increased from Rs 1,000 to 2,000 What is the difference to a big mill-owner? If you increase the fine for violation of the safety rules for a serious accident, where one worker dies or he is crippled for the whole of his life, for the serious accident, if the rate of fine has been increased only from Rs. 1,000 to 2,000, what difference does it make to them? I am not here talking about the man but about the attitude this Government is taking by bringing in the measure, for the fatal accidents.

MR CHAIRMAN The hon. Member may continue his speech tomorrow

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17 59-1/2 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SIXTY-FOURTH REPORT

MR CHAIRMAN Let Mr Shankaranand present the Sixty-fourth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B SHANKARANAND) Sir, I beg to present the Sixty-Fourth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

18 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, August 27 1976/Bhadra 5, 1898 (Saka).

GMGIPM—1646—J.C 2559—I—15-9-76—9,78